

2003 IEEE International Conference on
Robotics and Automation

September 14 - 19, 2003

The Grand Hotel, Taipei, Taiwan

Proceedings

Volume 1

Pages 1 — 1550

Sponsored by

The IEEE Robotics and Automation Society
National Science Council, Taiwan, R.O.C.
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Hosted by

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ICRA 2003 Proceedings (3 Volumes)

Additional copies may be ordered from:

IEEE Service Center
445 Hoes Lane
P.O. Box 1331
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IEEE Catalog Number:	03CH37422
ISBN:	0-7803-7736-2
Library of Congress Catalog Number:	90-640158
ISSN:	1050-4729
IEEE Catalog Number (CD-ROM):	03CH37422C
ISBN (CD-ROM):	0-7803-7737-0

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Printed in Taiwan.

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Foreword

The 2003 IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA 2003) is being held in Taipei, the capital city of Taiwan, R.O.C. After Japan and Korea, this is the 3rd time in the 20 years history of IEEE Robotics and Automation Society (RAS) that this extremely prestigious annual conference is to be held in Asia again. With the last ICRA being held in Washington D.C., U.S.A., the conference location in Taiwan at almost opposite side of the globe simply provides the most wonderful opportunity for the R&A field scholars and practitioners to explore more in depth the academia, economy, high tech. industry, culture, etc. of a part in Asia – Taiwan, besides enhancement of sociality and experience sharing

A record number of papers, 1176, have been submitted to this conference Program Committee (PC) from 48 countries completely through the web on-line system developed locally, which demonstrates excellent capabilities in handling huge amount of paper submissions from all over the world and the subsequent review and registration matters. Special thanks should go to the Program Co-Chairs, Shigeo Hirose, C.S.G. Lee, Bruno Siciliano, and B.H. Lee and all PC members for their extraordinary work in reviewing such incredible amount of submitted papers and in selecting 714 papers for presentations over 14 parallel tracks per day in the three day main program. Topics of the accepted papers cover quite wide spectrum and are roughly grouped into 34 categories. To serve the conference participants with a technical program of greater variety, the sessions of paper presentation are made of several kinds besides the regular ones, including Organized/Invited Session, Industry Session, Video Session, and three plenary speeches as well as three panel discussions. Such solid program will not be possible without tremendous help and professional support from members of the organizing committee and all other conference committees.

We wish you will have a fruitful conference and a very pleasant stay in Taiwan.



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Table of Contents

Foreword	i
Conference Organization	iii
Technical Program Committee	v
Table of Contents	vii

TuA1: Mobile Robot Navigation (I)

Foliage Discrimination Using a Rotating Ladar	1
<i>Andres Castano and Larry Matthies</i>	
Moving Obstacle Detection for a Skid-Steered Vehicle Endowed with a Single 2-D Laser Scanner	7
<i>Kostas J. Kyriakopoulos and Nikos Skounakis</i>	
A Neural Network Based Torque Controller for Collision-Free Navigation of Mobile Robots	13
<i>Simon X. Yang, Tiemin Hu, Xiaobu Yuan, Peter X Liu, and Max Meng</i>	
Studying the Feasibility of Energy Harvesting in a Mobile Sensor Network	19
<i>Mohammad Rahimi, Hardik Shah, Gaurav S. Sukhatme, John Heidemann, and Deborah Estrin</i>	
A Robotic Walker that Provides Guidance	25
<i>Aaron Morris, Raghavendra Donamukkala, Anuj Kapuria, Aaron Steinfeld, Judith T. Matthews, Jacqueline Dunbar-Jacobs, and Sebastian Thrun</i>	

TuA2: Control of Biped Robot (I)

An Order n Dynamic Simulator for a Humanoid Robot with a Virtual Spring-Damper Contact Model	31
<i>Yoonkwon Hwang, Eiichi Inohira, Atsushi Konno, and Masaru Uchiyama</i>	
Towards a Factored Analysis of Legged Locomotion Models	37
<i>Richard Attendorfer, Daniel E. Koditschek, and Philip Holmes</i>	
Frontal Plane Algorithms for Dynamic Bipedal Walking	45
<i>Chee-Meng Chew and Gill A. Pratt</i>	
Contact Phase Invariant Control for Humanoid Robot Based on Variable Impedant Inverted Pendulum Model	51
<i>Tomomichi Sugihara and Yoshihiko Nakamura</i>	
Aerial Posture Control for 3D Biped Running Using Compensator around Yaw Axis	57
<i>Sang-Ho Hyon and Takashi Emura</i>	

TuA3: Mobile Robot Wheel Mechanisms

Development of Arm Equipped Single Wheel Rover: Effective Arm-Posture-Based Steering Method	63
<i>Kazuhiro Motomura, Atsushi Kawakami, and Shigeo Hirose</i>	
Kinematic Modelling of Wheeled Mobile Manipulators	69
<i>B. Bayle, J.-Y. Fourquet, and M. Renaud</i>	

Trail-Laying Robots for Robust Terrain Coverage	75
<i>Jonas Svennebring and Sven Koenig</i>	
Curvature Based Point Stabilization for Compliant Framed Wheeled Modular Mobile Robots	83
<i>Brian W. Albiston and Mark A. Minor</i>	
Scout Robot Motion Model	90
<i>Sascha A. Stoeter, Ian T. Burt, and Nikolaos Papanikolopoulos</i>	

TuA4: Agriculture and Off-Road Robotics

Control of a Heavy Material Handling Agricultural Manipulator Using μ -Synthesis and Robust Gain Scheduling	96
<i>Satoru Sakai, Koichi Osuka, Michihisa Iida, and Mikio Umeda</i>	
A Generalized Newton Method for Identification of Closed-Chain Excavator Arm Parameters	103
<i>Yahya H. Zweiri, Lakmal D. Seneviratne, and Kaspar Althoefer</i>	
Proprioceptive Control for a Robotic Vehicle over Geometric Obstacles	109
<i>Kenneth J. Waldron, Ronald C. Arkin, Douglas Bakkum, Ernest Merrill, and Muhammad Abdallah</i>	
Adaptive Control for Car Like Vehicles Guidance Relying on RTK GPS: Rejection of Sliding Effects in Agricultural Applications	115
<i>R. Lenain, B. Thuilot, C. Cariou, and P. Martinet</i>	
On-Line Soil Property Estimation for Autonomous Excavator Vehicles	121
<i>Choopar Tan, Yahya H Zweiri, Kaspar Althoefer, and Lakmal D Seneviratne</i>	

TuA5: 3D Vision (I)

Uncertainty-Driven Viewpoint Planning for 3D Object Measurements	127
<i>Y.F. Li and Z.G. Liu</i>	
Overview of Coded Light Projection Techniques for Automatic 3D Profiling	133
<i>Jordi Pagès, Joaquim Salvi, Rafael García, and Carles Matabosch</i>	
Registration and Segmentation for 3D Map Building: A Solution Based on Stereo Vision and Inertial Sensors	139
<i>Jorge Lobo, Luis Almeida, João Alves, and Jorge Dias</i>	
3D Modeling of Historic Sites Using Range and Image Data	145
<i>Peter K. Allen, Ioannis Siamos, A. Troccoli, B. Smith, M. Leordeanu, and Y.C. Hsu</i>	
Detection of Classes of Features for Automated Robot Programming	151
<i>Markus Vincze, Andreas Pichler, and Georg Biegelbauer</i>	

TuA6: Computer Aided Scheduling

A Polynomial Algorithm for a Two-Job Shop Scheduling Problem with Routing Flexibility	157
<i>Yazid Mati and Xiaolan Xie</i>	
Efficient Selection of Scheduling Rule Combination by Combining Design of Experiment and Ordinal Optimization-Based Simulation	163
<i>Bo-Wei Hsieh, Shi-Chung Chang, and Chun-Hung Chen</i>	

Deadlock-Free Scheduling of Flexible Manufacturing Workcells Using Automata Theory	169
<i>Hamid R. Golmakani, James K. Mills, and Beno Benhabib</i>	
Utility and Stability Measures for Agent-Based Dynamic Scheduling of Steel Continuous Casting	175
<i>D. Ouelhadj, P.I. Cowling, and S. Petrovic</i>	
Platform-Based AS/RS for Container Storage	181
<i>Chuanyu Chen, Shell-Ying Huang, Wen-Jing Hsu, Ah Cheong Toh, and Chee Kit Loh</i>	

TuA7: Actuator Design

Development of a Hot Gas Actuator for Self-Powered Robots	188
<i>Michael Goldfarb, Eric J. Barth, Michael A. Gogola, and Joseph A. Wehrmeyer</i>	
Development of a Passively Operating Load-Responsive Transmission	194
<i>Hitoshi Maekawa and Kiyoshi Komoriya</i>	
Analytic and Experimental Study on Fast Response MR-Fluid Actuator	202
<i>Naoyuki Takesue, Junji Furusho, and Yuuki Kiyota</i>	
Dynamic Modeling and Analysis of a Transmission-Based Robot Servoactuator	208
<i>William R. Hamel, Sewoong Kim, Renbin Zhou, and Arnold Lumsdaine</i>	
Development of Isokinetic Exercise Machine Using ER Brake	214
<i>Takehito Kikuchi, Junji Furusho, and Kunihiko Oda</i>	

TuA8: Bio-Robotics

Automatic EMG Feature Evaluation for Controlling a Prosthetic Hand Using a Supervised Feature Mining Method: An Intelligent Approach	220
<i>Han-Pang Huang, Yi-Hung Liu, and Chun-Shin Wong</i>	
Rhythmic Movement by Neural Oscillator with Periodic Stimulus	226
<i>Hiroaki Hirai and Fumio Miyazaki</i>	
Visuo-Motor Coordination of a Humanoid Robot Head with Human-like Vision in Face Tracking	232
<i>Cecilia Laschi, Hiroyasu Miwa, Atsuo Takanishi, Eugenio Guglielmelli, and Paolo Dario</i>	
An Extensor Mechanism for an Anatomical Robotic Hand	238
<i>David D. Wilkinson, Michael Vande Weghe, and Yoky Matsuoka</i>	
A Clinical Jaw Movement Training Robot for Lateral Movement Training	244
<i>Akihisa Okino, Takahiro Inoue, Hideaki Takanobu, Atsuo Takanishi, Kayoko Ohtsuki, Masatoshi Ohnishi, and Yoshio Nakano</i>	

TuA9: Mobility and Manipulation

Mood and Task Coordination of Home Robots	250
<i>Myung-Jin Jung, Fumihito Arai, Yasuhisa Hasegawa, and Toshio Fukuda</i>	
Remote Book Browsing System Using a Mobile Manipulator	256
<i>Tetsuo Tomizawa, Akihisa Ohya, and Shin'ichi Yuta</i>	
Environment Identification by Comparing Maps of Landmarks	262
<i>Jens-Steffen Gutmann, Masaki Fukuchi, and Kohtaro Sabe</i>	

Behavior-Based Mobile Manipulation Inspired by the Human Example.....	268
<i>B.J.W. Waarsing, M. Nuttin, and H. Van Brussel</i>	
Reliability Analysis of Mobile Robots	274
<i>Jennifer Carlson and Robin R. Murphy</i>	

TuA10: Micro Robotics (I)

Wet Shape Memory Alloy Actuators for Active Vasculated Robotic Flesh.....	282
<i>Stephen A. Mascaró and H. Harry Asada</i>	
A Thermally Actuated Polymer Micro Robotic Gripper for Manipulation of Biological Cells	288
<i>Ho-Yin Chan and Wen J. Li</i>	
Actively Servoed Multi-Axis Microforce Sensors	294
<i>Yu Sun, D. P. Potasek, D. Piyabongkarn, R. Rajamani, and B.J. Nelson</i>	
Pico-Newton Order Force Measurement Using a Calibrated Carbon Nanotube Probe by Electromechanical Resonance.....	300
<i>Fumihito Arai, Masahiro Nakajima, Lixin Dong, and Toshio Fukuda</i>	
Novel Touch Sensor with Piezoelectric Thin Film for Microbial Separation	306
<i>Fumihito Arai, Kouhei Motoo, Paul G.R. Kwon, Toshio Fukuda, Akihiko Ichikawa, and Tohoru Katsuragi</i>	

TuA11: Mechanism Design

A Multifunctional Hybrid Hip Joint for Improved Adaptability in Miniature Climbing Robots	312
<i>Satya P. Krosuri and Mark A. Minor</i>	
Compliant Constant-Force Mechanism with a Variable Output for Micro/Macro Applications	318
<i>Dhiraj R. Nahar and Thomas Sugar</i>	
Design and Foot Contact of a Leg Mechanism with a Flexible Gear System	324
<i>K.H. Low and Aiqiang Yang</i>	
Conceptual Design and Kinematic Analysis of a 3-DOF Robot Wrist	330
<i>Meng Li, Tian Huang, and Zhanxian Li</i>	
A Novel Mechanism for Implementing Multiple Collocated Spherical Joints.....	336
<i>Paul Bosscher and Imme Ebert-Uphoff</i>	

TuA12: Geometry Issues in Robotics

A Branch-and-Prune Algorithm for Solving Systems of Distance Constraints	342
<i>Josep Maria Porta, Federico Thomas, Lluís Ros, and Carme Torras</i>	
Exact Collision Detection of Two Moving Ellipsoids under Rational Motions	349
<i>Yi-King Choi, Wenping Wang, and Myung-Soo Kim</i>	
Coordinate-Free Formulation of a 3-2-1 Wire-Based Tracking Device Using Cayley-Menger Determinants.....	355
<i>Federico Thomas, Erika Ottaviano, Lluís Ros, and Marco Ceccarelli</i>	
Examination by Software Simulation on Preliminary-Announcement and Display of Mobile Robot's Following Action by Lamp or Blowouts	362
<i>Takafumi Matsumaru, Hisashi Endo, and Tomotaka Ito</i>	

Float Arm V: Hyper-Redundant Manipulator with Wire-Driven Weight-Compensation Mechanism.....	368
<i>Shigeo Hirose, Tomoyuki Ishii, and Atsuo Haishi</i>	

TuA13: Human Robot Interaction (I)

Coordination of Human and Mobile Manipulators Formation in a Perceptive Reference Frame.....	374
<i>Jindong Tan, Ning Xi, Amit Goradia, and Weihua Sheng</i>	
Proposal and Evaluation of Natural Language Human-Robot Interface System Based on Conversation Theory	380
<i>Yasushi Nakauchi, Piyawat Naphattalung, Takeshi Takahashi, Takashi Matsubara, and Eiichi Kashiwagi</i>	
Visual Human Machine Interface by Gestures.....	386
<i>Manel Frigola, Josep Fernández, and Joan Aranda</i>	
Realizing Personality in Audio-Visually Triggered Non-Verbal Behaviors.....	392
<i>Hiroshi G. Okuno, Kazuhiro Nakadai, and Hiroaki Kitano</i>	
Robot Recognizes Three Simultaneous Speech by Active Audition	398
<i>Kazuhiro Nakadai, Hiroshi G. Okuno, and Hiroaki Kitano</i>	

TuA14: SLAM

Airborne Simultaneous Localisation and Map Building	406
<i>Jong-Hyuk Kim and Salah Sukkarieh</i>	
Real Time Data Association for FastSLAM.....	412
<i>Juan Nieto, Jose Guivant, Eduardo Nebot, and Sebastian Thrun</i>	
Outdoor Exploration and SLAM Using a Compressed Filter	419
<i>John Folkesson and Henrik Christensen</i>	
Linear Time Vehicle Relocation in SLAM.....	427
<i>José Neira, Juan D. Tardes, and José A. Castellanos</i>	
A Genetic Algorithm for Simultaneous Localization and Mapping.....	434
<i>Tom Duckett</i>	

TuM1: Mobile Robot Navigation (II)

3D-Odometry for Rough Terrain—Towards Real 3D Navigation	440
<i>Pierre Lamon and Roland Siegwart</i>	
Smooth and Efficient Obstacle Avoidance for a Tour Guide Robot	446
<i>Roland Philippsen and Roland Siegwart</i>	
Internal Posture Sensing for a Flexible Frame Modular Mobile Robot.....	452
<i>Roy Merrell and Mark A. Minor</i>	
Mobile Robot Navigation Using Sensor Fusion	458
<i>Fernando Lizarralde, Eduardo V.L. Nunes, Liu Hsu, and John T. Wen</i>	
Optimal Navigation and Object Finding without Geometric Maps or Localization	464
<i>Benjamin Tovar, Steven M. LaValle, and Rafael Murrieta</i>	

TuM2: Control of Biped Robot (II)

A Small Biped Entertainment Robot Exploring Attractive Applications	471
<i>Yoshihiro Kuroki, Masahiro Fujita, Tatsuzo Ishida, Ken'ichiro Nagasaka, and Jin'ichi Yamaguchi</i>	
Development of Walking Manipulator with Versatile Locomotion	477
<i>Yusuke Ota, Tatsuya Tamaki, Kan Yoneda, and Shigeo Hirose</i>	
Sensor and Control Design of a Dynamically Stable Biped Robot	484
<i>K. Löffler, M. Gienger, and F. Pfeiffer</i>	
Double Spherical Joint and Backlash Clutch for Lower Limbs of Humanoids	491
<i>Masafumi Okada, Tetsuya Shinohara, Tatsuya Gotoh, Shigeki Ban, and Yoshihiko Nakamura</i>	

TuM3: Omnidirectional Vehicles

Two Wheels Caster Type Odometer for Omni-Directional Vehicles	497
<i>Nobuhiro Ushimi, Motoji Yamamoto, and Akira Mohri</i>	
CVT Control of an Omnidirectional Mobile Robot with Steerable Omnidirectional Wheels for Energy Efficient Drive	503
<i>Kyung-Seok Byun and Jae-Bok Song</i>	
Exponential Control Law for a Multi-Degree of Freedom Mobile Robot	509
<i>Gabriel Ramirez and Saïd Zeghloul</i>	
A Common Reference Object Concept to Cooperative Transportation	515
<i>Xin Yang, Keigo Watanabe, Kiyotaka Izumi, and Kazuo Kiguchi</i>	
The Dynamic Modeling and Analysis for an Omnidirectional Mobile Robot with Three Caster Wheels	521
<i>Jae Heon Chung, Byung Ju Yi, Whee Kuk Kim, and Hogil Lee</i>	

TuM4: Helicopter/Air Vehicle

Autonomous Hovering Control and Test for Micro Air Vehicle	528
<i>Huai-yu Wu, Zhao-ying Zhou, and Dong Sun</i>	
Micro Air Vehicle: Architecture and Implementation	534
<i>Huai-yu Wu, Dong Sun, Zhao-ying Zhou, Shen-shu Xiong, and Xiao-hao Wang</i>	
Lateral Path-Following GPS-Based Control of a Small-Size Unmanned Blimp	540
<i>Emmanuel Hygounenc and Philippe Souères</i>	
Low-Cost Flight Control System for a Small Autonomous Helicopter	546
<i>Jonathan M. Roberts, Peter I. Corke, and Gregg Buskey</i>	
Integrated Modeling and Robust Control for Full-Envelope Flight of Robotic Helicopters	552
<i>Marco La Civita, George Papageorgiou, William C. Messner, and Takeo Kanade</i>	

TuM5: Omnidirectional Vision

Omnidirectional Vision for an Autonomous Helicopter	558
<i>Stefan Hrubar and Gaurav S. Sukhatme</i>	
Iconic Memory-Based Omnidirectional Route Panorama Navigation	564
<i>Yasushi Yagi, Kousuke Imai, and Masahiko Yachida</i>	

Multibody Motion Estimation and Segmentation from Multiple Central Panoramic Views	571
<i>Omid Shakernia, René Vidal, and Shankar Sastry</i>	
Visual Odometry from an Omnidirectional Vision System	577
<i>Roland Bunschoten and Ben Kröse</i>	
Formation Control of Nonholonomic Mobile Robots with Omnidirectional Visual Servoing and Motion Segmentation	584
<i>René Vidal, Omid Shakernia, and Shankar Sastry</i>	

TuM6: Diagnostics and Networked Manufacturing Systems

Web-Based Hardware-Neutral Sequential Controller	590
<i>Chiaming Yen, Wujeng Li, and Jui Cheng Lin</i>	
Development of a Web-Services-Based e-Diagnostics Framework	596
<i>Min-Hsiung Hung, Fan-Tien Cheng, and Sze-Chien Yeh</i>	
A Novel Approach to Fault Diagnostics and Prognostics	604
<i>C. Kwan, X. Zhang, R. Xu, and L. Haynes</i>	
Intelligent Diagnosis Method of Multi-Fault State for Plant Machinery Using Wavelet Analysis, Genetic Programming and Possibility Theory	610
<i>Peng Chen, Masatoshi Taniguchi, and Toshio Toyota</i>	
Distributed Modeling and Simulation of 300mm Fab Intrabay Automation Systems Using Distributed Agent Oriented Petri Nets	616
<i>Chung-Hsien Kuo and Chien-Sheng Huang</i>	

TuM7: Actuators and Drivers

A New Approach to Compensate Friction in Robotic Actuators	622
<i>Sebastião Cicero Pinheiro Gomes, and Vagner Santos Da Rosa</i>	
Modeling and Control of a Monopropellant-Based Pneumatic Actuation System	628
<i>Eric J. Barth, Michael A. Gogola, and Michael Goldfarb</i>	
Actuator Failure Detection and Isolation Using Generalized Momenta	634
<i>Alessandro De Luca and Raffaella Mattone</i>	
Development on Conveyance Module with New Power Drive Mechanism for Thin Wire Production System	640
<i>Hidehiko Ishihara, Kimihito Yukawa, and Atsutoshi Ikeda</i>	
Large-Scale Servo Control Using a Matrix Wire Network for Driving a Large Number of Actuators	646
<i>Kyu-Jin Cho, Samuel Au, and H. Harry Asada</i>	

TuM8: Medical Diagnostic Robotics

Remote Actuation Mechanism for MR-Compatible Manipulator Using Leverage and Parallelogram—Workspace Analysis, Workspace Control, and Stiffness Evaluation	652
<i>Yoshihiko Koseki, Noriho Koyachi, Tatsuo Arai, and Kiyoyuki Chinzei</i>	
The Development of a Bendable Colonoscopic Tip	658
<i>G. Thomann, M. Bétemps, and T. Redarce</i>	

Touching Stomach by Air	664
<i>Makoto Kaneko, Tomohiro Kawahara, Satoshi Matsunaga, Toshio Tsuji, and Shinji Tanaka</i>	
An MR Compatible Robotic Technology	670
<i>R. Moser, R. Gassert, E. Burdet, L. Sacher, H.R. Woodtli, J. Erni, W. Maeder, and H. Bleuler</i>	
Impedance Controller and Its Clinical Use of the Remote Ultrasound Diagnostic System	676
<i>Norihiro Koizumi, Shin'ichi Warisawa, Hiroyuki Hashizume, and Mamoru Mitsuishi</i>	

TuM9: Dexterous Hand and Control

DLR Hand II: Hard- and Software Architecture for Information Processing	684
<i>S. Haidacher, J. Butterfass, M. Fischer, M. Grebenstein, K. Joehl, K. Kunze, M. Nickl, N. Seitz, and G. Hirzinger</i>	
Design of a New Grasper Having XYZ Translational Motion	690
<i>Dong Yi, Byung-Ju Yi, and WheeKuk Kim</i>	
Under-Actuated Passive Adaptive Grasp Humanoid Robot Hand with Control of Grasping Force	696
<i>Wenzeng Zhang, Qiang Chen, Zhenguo Sun, and Dongbin Zhao</i>	
DLR Hand II: Experiments and Experiences with an Anthropomorphic Hand	702
<i>Ch. Borst, M. Fischer, S. Haidacher, H. Liu, and G. Hirzinger</i>	
Novel Fingertip Equipped with Soft Skin and Hard Nail for Dexterous Multi-Fingered Robotic Manipulation	708
<i>Kouji Murakami and Tsutomu Hasegawa</i>	

TuM10: Distributed Robotic Systems

Automatic Locomotion Pattern Generation for Modular Robots	714
<i>Akiya Kamimura, Haruhisa Kurokawa, Eiichi Yoshida, Kohji Tomita, Satoshi Murata, and Shigeru Kokaji</i>	
From Local to Global Behavior in Intelligent Self-Assembly	721
<i>Chris Jones and Maja J. Mataric</i>	
Functional Reactive Programming as a Hybrid System Framework	727
<i>Izzet Pembeci and Gregory Hager</i>	
Formation Constrained Multi-Robot System in Unknown Environments	735
<i>Zhiqiang Cao, Liangjun Xie, Bin Zhang, Shuo Wang, and Min Tan</i>	
Enveloping Obstacles with Hexagonal Metamorphic Robots	741
<i>Jennifer E. Walter, Elizabeth M. Tsai, and Nancy M. Amato</i>	

TuM11: Parallel Robot (I)

An In-Parallel Actuated Manipulator with Redundant Actuators for Gross and Fine Motions	749
<i>Yukio Takeda, Kazuki Ichikawa, Hiroaki Funabashi, and Kazuya Hirose</i>	
Type Synthesis of 4-DOF Parallel Manipulators	755
<i>Qinchuan Li and Zhen Huang</i>	
Singularity-Free Path Planning of Parallel Manipulators Using Clustering Algorithm and Line Geometry	761
<i>Anjan Kumar Dash, I-Ming Chen, Song Huat Yeo, and Guilin Yang</i>	

Singularity Analysis of the HALF Parallel Manipulator with Revolute Actuators	767
<i>Xin-Jun Liu, Jongwon Kim, and Kun-Ku Oh</i>	
The Management of Parallel-Manipulator Singularities Using Joint-Coupling	773
<i>I-Ming Chen, Jorge Angeles, Theingi, and Chuan Li</i>	

TuM12: Computational Intelligence (I)

Evolutionary Acquisition of Handstand from Backward Giant Circle by a Three-Link Rings Gymnastic Robot	779
<i>Takaaki Yamada, Keigo Watanabe, and Kazuo Kiguchi</i>	
Dexterous Manipulation from Pinching to Power Grasping—Strategy Selection According to Object Dimensions and Grasping Position	785
<i>Yasuhisa Hasegawa, Hayato Ioka, Toshio Fukuda, and Kensaku Kanada</i>	
Extend QDSEGA for Controlling Real Robots—Acquisition of Locomotion Patterns for Snake-like Robot	791
<i>Kazuyuki Ito, Tetsushi Kamegawa, and Fumitoshi Matsuno</i>	
A Study toward Cognitive Action with Environment Recognition by a Learning Space Robot	797
<i>Kei Senda, Tsutomu Matsumoto, and Yuzo Okano</i>	
Learning New Representations and Goals for Autonomous Robots	803
<i>Williams Paquier and Raja Chatila</i>	

TuM13: Haptic Interface (I)

Enabling Multi-Finger, Multi-Hand Virtualized Grasping	809
<i>Federico Barbagli, Kenneth Salisbury Jr., and Roman Devengenzo</i>	
Improvement of Passive Elements for Wearable Haptic Displays	816
<i>Sadao Kawamura, Katsuya Kanaoka, Yuichiro Nakayama, Jinwoo Jeon, and Daisuke Fujimoto</i>	
Sampled and Continuous Time Passivity and Stability of Virtual Environments	822
<i>Jee-Hwan Ryu, Yoon Sang Kim, and Blake Hannaford</i>	
The Haptic Scissors: Cutting in Virtual Environments	828
<i>A.M. Okamura, R.J. Webster III, J.T. Nolin, K.W. Johnson, and H. Jafry</i>	
Digital Clay: Architecture Designs for Shape-Generating Mechanisms	834
<i>Paul Bosscher and Imme Ebert-Uphoff</i>	

TuM14: Localization (I)

Online Simultaneous Localization and Mapping with Detection and Tracking of Moving Objects: Theory and Results from a Ground Vehicle in Crowded Urban Areas	842
<i>Chieh-Chih Wang, Charles Thorpe, and Sebastian Thrun</i>	
Using Visual Features to Build Topological Maps of Indoor Environments	850
<i>Paul E. Rybski, Franziska Zacharias, Jean-François Lett, Osama Masoud, Maria Gini, and Nikolaos Papanikolopoulos</i>	
Vision-Based Fast and Reactive Monte-Carlo Localization	856
<i>Thomas Röfer and Matthias Jüngel</i>	

Object-Based Localization and Mapping Using Loop Constraints and Geometric Prior Knowledge	862
<i>Masahiro Tomono and Shin'ichi Yuta</i>	
Putting the 'I' in 'Team': An Ego-Centric Approach to Cooperative Localization	868
<i>Andrew Howard, Maja J Matarić, and Gaurav S. Sukhatme</i>	

TuP1: Vision-Based Navigation (I)

Direct Plane Tracking in Stereo Images for Mobile Navigation	875
<i>Jason Corso, Darius Burschka, and Gregory Hager</i>	
Location Estimation and Trajectory Prediction of Moving Lateral Vehicle Using Two Wheel Shapes Information in 2-D Lateral Vehicle Images by 3-D Computer Vision Techniques	881
<i>Chih-Chiun Lai and Wen-Hsiang Tsai</i>	
Path-Dependent Gaze Control for Obstacle Avoidance in Vision Guided Humanoid Walking	887
<i>Javier F. Seara, Klaus H. Strobl, and Günther Schmidt</i>	
Mobile Robot Navigation in Dynamic Environments Using Omnidirectional Stereo	893
<i>Hiroshi Koyasu, Jun Miura, and Yoshiaki Shirai</i>	
Self-Positioning with an Omnidirectional Stereo System	899
<i>Jyun-ichi Eino, Toshinobu Takashi, Jyun-ichi Takiguchi, and Takumi Hashizume</i>	

TuP2: Control of Biped Robot (III)

A Motion Planning Approach to Fast Parking Control of Mobile Robots	905
<i>Ti-Chung Lee, Chi-Yi Tsai, and Kai-Tai Song</i>	
Online Humanoid Walking Control System and a Moving Goal Tracking Experiment	911
<i>Koichi Nishiwaki, Satoshi Kagami, James J. Kuffner, Masayuki Inaba, and Hirochika Inoue</i>	
Autonomous Reactive Control for Simulated Humanoids	917
<i>Petros Faloutsos, Michiel van de Panne, and Demetri Terzopoulos</i>	
The Sway Compensation Trajectory for a Biped Robot	925
<i>Ryo Kurazume, Tsutomu Hasegawa, and Kan Yoneda</i>	
Online Footstep Planning for Humanoid Robots	932
<i>James Kuffner, Satoshi Kagami, Koichi Nishiwaki, Masayuki Inaba, and Hirochika Inoue</i>	

TuP3: Multi-Mobile Robot System (I)

Decentralized Control of Multiple Mobile Manipulators Based on Virtual 3-D Caster Motion for Handling an Object in Cooperation with a Human	938
<i>Yasuhisa Hirata, Youhei Kume, Zhi-Dong Wang, and Kazuhiro Kosuge</i>	
Time-Optimal Cooperative Control of Multiple Robot Vehicles	944
<i>Tomonari Furukawa, Hugh F. Durrant-Whyte, and Gamini Dissanayake</i>	
Analysis of Formation Control of Cooperative Transportation of Mother Ship by SMC	951
<i>Masaki Yamakita, Yasuaki Taniguchi, and Yuichirou Shukuya</i>	
Multi Mobile Robot Navigation Using Distributed Value Function Reinforcement Learning	957
<i>Sharareh Babvey, Omid Momtahan, and Mohammad R. Meybodi</i>	

TuP4: Underwater Robotics

Trajectory Sonar Perception	963
<i>Richard J. Rikoski and John J. Leonard</i>	
Vision-Based Localization of an Underwater Robot in a Structured Environment	971
<i>M. Carreras, P. Ridao, R. Garcia, and T. Nicosevici</i>	
Vision-Based Linear Motion Estimation for Unmanned Underwater Vehicles	977
<i>Massimo Caccia</i>	
Determining the Bodily Motion of a Biomimetic Underwater Vehicle under Oscillating Propulsion	983
<i>Jenhwa Guo, Forng-Chen Chiu, Chih-Chieh Chen, and Yueh Sheng Ho</i>	
Correction of Shading Effects in Vision-Based UUV Localization	989
<i>R. Garcia, X. Cufi, M. Carreras, and P. Ridao</i>	

TuP5: 3D Vision (II)

Design of an Artificial Mark to Determine 3D Pose by Monocular Vision	995
<i>Rie Katsuki, Jun Ota, Takahisa Mizuta, Tomomi Kito, Tamio Arai, Tsuyoshi Ueyama, and Tsuyoshi Nishiyama</i>	
Foveated Observation of Shape and Motion	1001
<i>James Davis and Xing Chen</i>	
Automated Multisensor Polyhedral Model Acquisition	1007
<i>D. Ortin, J.M.M. Montiel, and A. Zisserman</i>	
Structure and Pose from Single Images of Symmetric Objects with Applications to Robots Navigation	1013
<i>Allen Y. Yang, Wei Hong, and Yi Ma</i>	
A Comparison of Gaussian and Mean Curvatures Estimation Methods on Triangular Meshes	1021
<i>Tatiana Surazhsky, Evgeny Magid, Octavian Soldea, Gershon Elber, and Ehud Rivlin</i>	

TuP6: Semiconductor Factory Automation

Effective OHT Dispatching for Differentiated Material Handling Services in 300mm Wafer Foundry	1027
<i>Chia-Nan Wang and Da-Yin Liao</i>	
ERCN* Merged Nets for Modeling Degraded Behavior and Parallel Processes in Semiconductor Manufacturing Systems	1033
<i>MuDer Jeng, Xiaolan Xie, and Sheng-Luen Chung</i>	
Schedule Stabilization and Robust Timing Control for Time-Constrained Cluster Tools	1039
<i>Ja-Hee Kim and Tae-Eog Lee</i>	
Structural Analysis of Resource Allocation Systems with Synchronization Constraints	1045
<i>Spyros Reveliotis</i>	
An Overview of Semiconductor Fab Automation Systems	1050
<i>Sheng-Luen Chung and MuDer Jeng</i>	

TuP7: Adaptive Control

Robustness of Image-Based Visual Servoing with Respect to Depth Distribution Errors	1056
<i>Ezio Malis and Patrick Rives</i>	
Uniform Parametric Convergence in the Adaptive Control of Manipulators: A Case Restudied	1062
<i>Antonio Loria, Rafael Kelly, and Andrew R. Teel</i>	
Novel Approach in the Adaptive Control of Systems Having Strongly Nonlinear Coupling between Their Unmodeled Internal Degrees of Freedom	1068
<i>Imre J. Rudas, K. Kozłowski, József K. Tar, and Karel Jezernik</i>	
Adaptive Control of Robot Manipulators Using Multiple Neural Networks	1074
<i>Choon-Young Lee and Ju-Jang Lee</i>	
Collision Detection System for Manipulator Based on Adaptive Impedance Control Law	1080
<i>Shinya Morinaga and Kazuhiro Kosuge</i>	

TuP8: Endoluminal Surgery-Microendoscopy (I)

Review of Locomotion Techniques for Robotic Colonoscopy	1086
<i>Irwan Kassim, Wan S. Ng, Gong Feng, Soo J. Phee, Paolo Dario, and Charles A. Mosse</i>	
Functional Colonoscope Robot System	1092
<i>Byungkyu Kim, Younkoo Jeong, Hyun-young Lim, Jong-Oh Park, Arianna Menciassi, and Paolo Dario</i>	
Hyper Redundant Miniature Manipulator "Hyper Finger" for Remote Minimally Invasive Surgery in Deep Area	1098
<i>Koji Ikuta, Takahiko Hasegawa, and Shinichi Daifu</i>	
Development of Remote Microsurgery Robot and New Surgical Procedure for Deep and Narrow Space	1103
<i>Koji Ikuta, Keiichi Yamamoto, and Keiji Sasaki</i>	
Simulating Soft Tissue Cutting Using Finite Element Models	1109
<i>C. Mendoza and C. Laugier</i>	

TuP9: Grasping Analysis

Dynamic Preshaping for a Robot Driven by a Single Wire	1115
<i>Mitsuru Higashimori, Makoto Kaneko and Masatoshi Ishikawa</i>	
Capturing a Concave Polygon with Two Disc-Shaped Fingers	1121
<i>Attawith Sudsang and Thanaphon Luewirawong</i>	
Optimization of Grasping by Using a Required External Force Set	1127
<i>Tetsuyou Watanabe and Tsuneo Yoshikawa</i>	
Ranking Planar Grasp Configurations for a Three-Finger Hand	1133
<i>Eris Chinellato, Robert B. Fisher, Antonio Morales, and Ángel P. del Pobil</i>	
On the Force Capability of Underactuated Fingers	1139
<i>Lionel Birglen and Clément M. Gosselin</i>	

TuP10: Micro Systems

Biomimetic Sensor Suite for Flight Control of a Micromechanical Flying Insect:	
--	--

Design and Experimental Results	1146
<i>Wei-Chung Wu, Luca Schenato, Robert J. Wood, and Ronald S. Fearing</i>	
Model Identification and Attitude Control for a Micromechanical Flying Insect Including Thorax and Sensor Models	1152
<i>Xinyan Deng, Luca Schenato, and Shankar S. Sastry</i>	
Dispersion Behaviors for a Team of Multiple Miniature Robots	1158
<i>Janice L. Pearce, Paul E. Rybski, Sascha A. Stoeter, and Nikolaos Papanikolopoulos</i>	
Synthetic Gecko Foot-Hair Micro/Nano-Structures for Future Wall-Climbing Robots	1164
<i>Metin Sitti and Ronald S. Fearing</i>	
Design and Implementaion of MARG Sensor for 3-DOF Orientation Measurement of Rigid Bodies	1171
<i>Eric R. Bachmann, Xiaoping Yun, Doug McKinney, Robert B. McGhee, and Michael J. Zyda</i>	

TuP11: Parallel Robot (II)

Mobility Analysis of Lower-Mobility Parallel Manipulators Based on Screw Theory	1179
<i>Qinchuan Li and Zhen Huang</i>	
Design and Control of a Novel 4-DOFs Parallel Robot H4	1185
<i>H.B. Choi, O. Company, F. Pierrot, A. Konno, T. Shibukawa, and M. Uchiyama</i>	
Vision-Based Kinematic Calibration of a H4 Parallel Mechanism	1191
<i>Pierre Renaud, Nicolas Andreff, Frédéric Marquet, and Philippe Martinet</i>	
Determination of the Optimal Geometry of Modular Parallel Robots	1197
<i>J-P. Merlet</i>	
Type Synthesis of 5-DOF Parallel Manipulators	1203
<i>Qinchuan Li and Zhen Huang</i>	

TuP12: Computational Intelligence (II)

Planning and Control of UGV Formations in a Dynamic Environment: A Practical Framework with Experiments	1209
<i>Yongxing Hao, Benjamin Laxton, Sunil K. Agrawal, Edward Lee, and Eric Benson</i>	
A New Approach for Structural Credit Assignment in Distributed Reinforcement Learning Systems	1215
<i>Yu Zhong, Guochang Gu, and Rubo Zhang</i>	
Genetic Algorithm Based Path Planning for a Mobile Robot	1221
<i>Jianping Tu and Simon X. Yang</i>	
Results for Outdoor-SLAM Using Sparse Extended Information Filters	1227
<i>Yufeng Liu and Sebastian Thrun</i>	
Autonomous Feature-Based Exploration	1234
<i>P. Newman, M. Bosse, and J. Leonard</i>	

TuP13: Haptic Interface (II)

Stable Haptic Interaction with Switched Virtual Environments	1241
<i>Saurabh Mahapatra and Miloš Žefran</i>	

Telerobotic Haptic System to Assist the Performance of Occupational Therapy Tests by Motion-Impaired Users	1247
<i>Norali Pernalet, Wentao Yu, Rajiv Dubey, and Wilfrido A. Moreno</i>	
A Telemanipulation System for Psychophysical Investigation of Haptic Interaction	1253
<i>B.J. Unger, R.L. Klatzky, and R.L. Hollis</i>	
The FeTouch Project	1259
<i>B. la Torre, D. Prattichizzo, F. Barbagli, and A. Vicino</i>	
Development of a System for Experiencing Tactile Sensation from a Robot Hand by Electrically Stimulating Sensory Nerve Fiber	1264
<i>Makoto Shimojo, Takafumi Suzuki, Akio Namiki, Takashi Saito, Masanari Kunimoto, Ryota Makino, Hironori Ogawa, Masatoshi Ishikawa, and Kunihiro Mabuchi</i>	

TuP14: Localization (II)

Mobile Robot Self-Localization Based on Global Visual Appearance Features	1271
<i>Chao Zhou, Yucheng Wei, and Tieniu Tan</i>	
Fast and Accurate Vision-Based Pattern Detection and Identification	1277
<i>James Bruce and Manuela Veloso</i>	
Ultrasonic Self-Localization and Pose Tracking of an Autonomous Mobile Robot via Fuzzy Adaptive Extended Information Filtering	1283
<i>Hung-Hsing Lin, Ching-Chih Tsai, Jui-Cheng Hsu, and Chih-Fu Chang</i>	
Probabilistic Visual Recognition of Artificial Landmarks for Simultaneous Localization and Mapping	1291
<i>David Prasser and Gordon Wyeth</i>	
3D Localization and Tracking in Unknown Environments	1297
<i>P. Saeedi, D.G. Lowe, and P.D. Lawrence</i>	

TuE1: Vision-Based Navigation (II)

Weighted Line Fitting Algorithms for Mobile Robot Map Building and Efficient Data Representation	1304
<i>Samuel T. Pfister, Stergios I. Roumeliotis, and Joel W. Burdick</i>	
Learning Self-Organizing Maps for Navigation in Dynamic Worlds	1312
<i>Rui Araújo, Gonçalo Gouveia, and Nuno Santos</i>	
BE-Viewer: Vision-Based Navigation System to Assist Motor-Impaired People in Docking Their Mobility Aids	1318
<i>Angelo M. Sabatini, Vincenzo Genovese, and Eliseo S. Maini</i>	
Using Learned Visual Landmarks for Intelligent Topological Navigation of Mobile Robots	1324
<i>M. Mata, J.M. Armingol, A. de la Escalera, and M.A. Salichs</i>	
Environment Modelling for Topological Navigation Using Visual Landmarks and Range Data	1330
<i>F. Lerasle, J. Carbajo, M. Devy, and J.B. Hayet</i>	

TuE2: New Challenges in Biped Locomotion

Running Pattern Generation and Its Evaluation Using a Realistic Humanoid Model	1336
<i>Takashi Nagasaki, Shuuji Kajita, Kazuhito Yokoi, Kenji Kaneko, and Kazuo Tanie</i>	

Synthesis of Walking Primitive Databases for Biped Robots in 3D-Environments	1343
<i>J. Denk and G. Schmidt</i>	
Gait Transitions for Walking and Running of Biped Robots	1350
<i>Ohung Kwon and Jong Hyeon Park</i>	
Development and Control of Autonomous, Biped Locomotion Using Efficient Modeling, Simulation, and Optimization Techniques	1356
<i>Michael Hardt, Oskar von Stryk, Dirk Wollherr, and Martin Buss</i>	
Co-Evolution of Morphology and Walking Pattern of Biped Humanoid Robot Using Evolutionary Computation—Designing the Real Robot	1362
<i>Ken Endo, Takashi Maeno, and Hiroaki Kitano</i>	

TuE3: Dynamic Control of Multi-Legged Robot

On the Stable Passive Dynamics of Quadrupedal Running	1368
<i>Ioannis Poulakakis, Evangelos Papadopoulos, and Martin Buehler</i>	
Template Based Control of Hexapedal Running	1374
<i>Uluc Saranlı and Daniel E. Koditschek</i>	
Stair Descent in the Simple Hexapod 'Rhex'	1380
<i>D. Campbell and M. Buehler</i>	
Towards a Dynamic Actuator Model for a Hexapod Robot	1386
<i>Dave McMordie, Chris Prahacs, and Martin Buehler</i>	
A Leg Configuration Sensory System for Dynamical Body State Estimates in a Hexapod Robot	1391
<i>Pei-Chun Lin, Haldun Komsuoğlu, and Daniel E. Koditschek</i>	

TuE5: Visual Sensing and Application (I)

A Truncated Least Squares Approach to the Detection of Specular Highlights in Color Images	1397
<i>Jae Byung Park and Avinash C. Kak</i>	
A Kite and Teleoperated Vision System for Acquiring Aerial Images	1404
<i>Paul Y. Oh and Bill Green</i>	
Appearance-Based Representation and Recognition of Human Motions	1410
<i>M. Masudur Rahman and Seiji Ishikawa</i>	
Automatic Detection and Response to Environmental Change	1416
<i>Scott Lenser and Manuela Veloso</i>	
Sky/Ground Modeling for Autonomous MAV Flight	1422
<i>Sinisa Todorović, Michael C. Nechyba, and Peter G. Iffu</i>	

TuE6: Petri Nets in Automated Systems Design (I)

AGV Routing for Conflict Resolution in AGV Systems	1428
<i>Naiqi Wu and MengChu Zhou</i>	
Colored Timed Petri-Net and GA Based Approach to Modeling and Scheduling for Wafer Probe Center	1434
<i>Shun-Yu Lin, Li-Chen Fu, Tsung-Che Chiang, and Yi-Shiuan Shen</i>	

Petri Net Controllers to Enforce Disjunction of GMECs.....	1440
<i>Francesco Basile, Ciro Carbone, and Pasquale Chiacchio</i>	
Property-Preserving Composition of Augmented Marked Graphs that Share Common Resources.....	1446
<i>H.J. Huang, L. Jiao, and T.Y. Cheung</i>	
A Novel Siphon-Based Deadlock Control Method for FMS	1452
<i>ZhiWu Li and MengChu Zhou</i>	

TuE7: Control Applications (I)

Globally Adaptive Decentralized Control of Time-Varying Robot Manipulators	1458
<i>Su-Hau Hsu and Li-Chen Fu</i>	
Kinematic Control of a Platoon of Autonomous Vehicles	1464
<i>Gianluca Antonelli and Stefano Chiaverini</i>	
Dynamic Modeling and Input Shaping of Thermal Bimorph MEMS Actuators	1470
<i>Dan O. Popa, Byoung Hun Kang, John T. Wen, Harry E. Stephanou, George Skidmore, and Aaron Geisberger</i>	
A Switching Control Strategy for Nonlinear Dynamic Systems	1476
<i>Mingjun Zhang and Tzyh-Jong Tarn</i>	
Control of Biomimetic Locomotion via Averaging Theory	1482
<i>Patricio A. Vela and Joel W. Burdick</i>	

TuE8: Human Robot Interaction (II)

A Method for Preventing Accidents due to Human Action Slip Utilizing HMM-Based Dempster-Shafer Theory	1490
<i>Yoji Yamada, Tetsuya Morizono, Yoji Umetani, and Yukitaka Sonohara</i>	
EMG Classification for Prehensile Postures Using Cascaded Architecture of Neural Networks with Self-Organizing Maps	1497
<i>Han-Pang Huang, Yi-Hung Liu, Li-Wei Liu, and Chun-Shin Wong</i>	
Narrative Situation Assessment for Human-Robot Interaction	1503
<i>Björn Jensen, Roland Philippsen, and Roland Siegwart</i>	
Configuring Sensors by User Learning for a Locomotion Aid Interface	1509
<i>R. Thieffry, E. Monacelli, P. Henaff, and S. Delaplace</i>	
Face Direction-Based Human-Computer Interface Using Image Observation and EMG Signal for the Disabled.....	1515
<i>Inhyuk Moon, Kyunghoon Kim, Jeicheong Ryu, and Museong Mun</i>	

TuE13: Sensor Application

Information-Theoretic Coordinated Control of Multiple Sensor Platforms	1521
<i>Ben Grocholsky, Alexei Makarenko, and Hugh Durrant-Whyte</i>	
High-Precision Task-Space Sensing and Guidance for Autonomous Robotic Localization	1527
<i>Goldie Nejat and Beno Benhabib</i>	

Geometry Design of an Elastic Finger-Shaped Sensor for Estimating Friction Coefficient by Pressing an Object	1533
<i>Takashi Maeno and Tomoyuki Kawamura</i>	
Recognizing Surface Properties Using Impedance Perception	1539
<i>Ryo Kikuuwe and Tsuneo Yoshikawa</i>	
Vision and Tactile Sensing for Real World Tasks	1545
<i>D. Kragic, S. Crinier, D. Brunn, and H.I. Christensen</i>	

WA1: Map Building

Automatic Map Acquisition for Navigation in Domestic Environments	1551
<i>Philipp Althaus and Henrik I. Christensen</i>	
Map Building with Mobile Robots in Dynamic Environments	1557
<i>Dirk Hähnel, Rudolph Triebel, Wolfram Burgard, and Sebastian Thrun</i>	
An Evaluation of Sequential Monte Carlo Technique for Simultaneous Localisation and Map-Building	1564
<i>David C.K. Yuen and Bruce A. MacDonald</i>	
Image-Based Localization with Depth-Enhanced Image Map	1570
<i>Dana Cobzas, Hong Zhang, and Martin Jagersand</i>	
Temporal Landmark Validation in CML	1576
<i>Juan Andrade-Cetto and Alberto Sanfeliu</i>	

WA2: Mobile Robot Design and Localization

TopBot: Automated Network Topology Detection with a Mobile Robot	1582
<i>Paul Blaer and Peter K. Allen</i>	
A New Localization System for Autonomous Robots	1588
<i>Sergio Hernández, Carlos A. Morales, Jesús M. Torres, and Leopoldo Acosta</i>	
Probabilistic Models of Dead-Reckoning Error in Nonholonomic Mobile Robots	1594
<i>Yu Zhou and Gregory S. Chirikjian</i>	
MICAbot: A Robotic Platform for Large-Scale Distributed Robotics	1600
<i>M. Brett McMickell, Bill Goodwine, and Luis Antonio Montestruque</i>	
Accurate Relative Localization Using Odometry	1606
<i>Nakju Doh, Howie Choset, and Wan Kyun Chung</i>	

WA3: Humanoid Robotics Software Platform: OpenHRP

Whole Body Teleoperation of a Humanoid Robot—A Method of Integrating Operator's Intention and Robot's Autonomy	1613
<i>Neo Ee Sian, Kazuhito Yokoi, Shuuji Kajita, Fumio Kanehiro, and Kazuo Tanie</i>	
Biped Walking Pattern Generation by Using Preview Control of Zero-Moment Point	1620
<i>Shuuji Kajita, Fumio Kanehiro, Kenji Kaneko, Kiyoshi Fujiwara, Kensuke Harada, Kazuhito Yokoi, and Hirohisa Hirukawa</i>	
Pushing Manipulation by Humanoid Considering Two-Kinds of ZMPs	1627
<i>Kensuke Harada, Shuuji Kajita, Kenji Kaneko, and Hirohisa Hirukawa</i>	

The First Humanoid Robot that Has the Same Size as a Human and that Can Lie down and Get up.....	1633
<i>Fumio Kanehiro, Kenji Kaneko, Kiyoshi Fujiwara, Kensuke Harada, Shuuji Kajita, Kazuhito Yokoi, Hirohisa Hirukawa, Kazuhiko Aakchi, and Takakatsu Isozumi</i>	
Experimental Evaluation of the Dynamic Simulation of Biped Walking of Humanoid Robots.....	1640
<i>Hirohisa Hirukawa, Fumio Kanehiro, Shuuji Kajita, Kiyoshi Fujiwara, Kazuhito Yokoi, Kenji Kaneko, and Kensuke Harada</i>	

WA4: Network Robotics

Tele-Coordinated Control of Multi-Robot Systems via the Internet	1646
<i>Imad Elhajj, Ning Xi, Amit Goradia, Chow Man Kit, Yun Hui Liu, and Toshio Fukuda</i>	
Connectivity-through-Time Protocols for Dynamic Wireless Networks to Support Mobile Robot Teams	1653
<i>Nageswara S.V. Rao, Qishi Wu, S. Sitharama Iyengar, and Arul Manickam</i>	
Control and Data Transmission for Internet Robots	1659
<i>Peter Xiaoping Liu, Max Q-H Meng, Jason Gu, Simon X. Yang, and Chao Hu</i>	
A Scalable Approach to Human-Robot Interaction	1665
<i>Ashley D. Tews, Maja J. Matarić, and Gaurav S. Sukhatme</i>	
A Service-Based Network Architecture for Wearable Robots	1671
<i>Ka Keung Lee, Ping Zhang, and Yangsheng Xu</i>	

WA5: Stereo Vision and Visual Tracking

A Real-Time Robust Eye Tracking System for Autostereoscopic Displays Using Stereo Cameras.....	1677
<i>Chan-Hung Su, Yong-Sheng Chen, Yi-Ping Hung, Chu-Song Chen, and Jiun-Hung Chen</i>	
Real-Time Object Tracking Using Multi-Resolution Critical Points Filters	1682
<i>Jérôme Durand and Seth Hutchinson</i>	
Correspondence-Free Stereo Vision for the Case of Arbitrarily-Positioned Cameras	1688
<i>Ding Yuan and Ronald Chung</i>	
High Resolution Catadioptric Omni-Directional Stereo Sensor for Robot Vision	1694
<i>Shih-Schön Lin and Ruzena Bajcsy</i>	
A Voting Stereo Matching Method for Real-Time Obstacle Detection	1700
<i>Mohamed Hariti, Yassine Ruichek, and Abderrafaa Koukam</i>	

WA6: Manufacturing Systems Architecture and Design (I)

Distributing 3D Manufacturing Simulations to Realize the Digital Plant	1705
<i>E. Freund and D.H. Pensky</i>	
Flexible Material Handling System Using Smart-Carriers and Powerline Communication	1711
<i>Eric Wade and H. Harry Asada</i>	
The Development of Distributed Web-Based Rapid Prototyping Manufacturing System	1717
<i>Ren C. Luo and Jyh Hwa Tzou</i>	
Development of a Generic Tester for Distributed Object-Oriented Systems	1723
<i>Fan-Tien Cheng, Chin-Hui Wang, and Yu-Chuan Su</i>	

Development of a STEP-Based Collaborative Product and Process Development System for Manufacturability Evaluation with Reverse Engineering	1731
<i>Rong Shean Lee and Jo Peng Tsai</i>	

WA7: Supply Chain Design, Analysis and Optimization

Design of Six Sigma Supply Chains	1737
<i>Dinesh Garg, Y. Narahari, and N. Viswanadham</i>	
Supply Chain Planning with Order/Setup Costs and Capacity Constraints: A New Lagrangian Relaxation Approach	1743
<i>Haoxun Chen and Chengbin Chu</i>	
Supply Chain Performance Evaluation: A Simulation Study	1749
<i>Yan Tu, Peter B. Luh, Weidong Feng, and Katsumi Narimatsu</i>	
An Optimization-Based Approach for Distributed Project Scheduling	1756
<i>Ming Ni, Peter B. Luh, and Bryan Moser</i>	
Robust Supply Chain Design: A Strategic Approach for Exception Handling	1762
<i>Roshan Gaonkar and N. Viswanadham</i>	

WA8: Robotic Surgery

A Wireless Temperature Measurement Guide Rod for Internal Bone Fixation Surgery	1768
<i>Raymond H.W. Lam, Wen J. Li, and Ning Xi</i>	
Robotic Needle Insertion: Effects of Friction and Needle Geometry	1774
<i>M.D. O'Leary, C. Simone, T. Washio, K. Yoshinaka, and A.M. Okamura</i>	
Design of All-Accelerometer Inertial Measurement Unit for Tremor Sensing in Hand-Held Microsurgical Instrument	1781
<i>Wei Tech Ang, Pradeep K. Khosla, and Cameron N. Riviere</i>	
Force Control and Breakthrough Detection of a Bone Drilling System	1787
<i>Wen-Yo Lee and Ching-Long Shih</i>	
Needle Insertion and Radioactive Seed Implantation in Human Tissues: Simulation and Sensitivity Analysis	1793
<i>Ron Alterovitz, Ken Goldberg, Jean Pouliot, Richard Taschereau, and I-Chow Hsu</i>	

WA9: Grasping and Manipulation (I)

A New Algorithm for Three-Finger Force-Closure Grasp of Polygonal Objects	1800
<i>Jia-Wei Li, Ming-He Jin, and Hong Liu</i>	
Estimating Finger Contact Location and Object Pose from Contact Measurements in 3-D Grasping	1805
<i>S. Haidacher and G. Hirzinger</i>	
Simplified Generation Algorithm of Regrasping Motion—Performance Comparison of Online-Searching Approach with EP-Based Approach	1811
<i>Yasuhisa Hasegawa, Masaki Higashiura, and Toshio Fukuda</i>	
A Polyhedral Bound on the Indeterminate Contact Forces in 2D Fixturing and Grasping Arrangements	1817
<i>Elon Rimon, Joel W. Burdick, and Toru Omata</i>	

Automatic Grasp Planning Using Shape Primitives	1824
<i>Andrew T. Miller, Steffen Knoop, Henrik I. Christensen, and Peter K. Allen</i>	

WA10: Micro Robotics (II)

Polymer-Based New Type of Micropump for Bio-Medical Application	1830
<i>Shuxiang Guo and Kinji Asaka</i>	
A High Force Miniature Gripper Fabricated via Shape Deposition Manufacturing	1836
<i>Cesare Stefanini, Mark R. Cutkosky, and Paolo Dario</i>	
Microrobotics Using Composite Materials: The Micromechanical Flying Insect Thorax	1842
<i>R.J. Wood, S. Avadhanula, M. Menon, and R.S. Fearing</i>	
Torque Sensing of Finger Joint Using Strain-Deformation Expansion Mechanism	1850
<i>Yong Yu, Takashi Ishitsuka, and Showzow Tsujio</i>	
Digital Polymer Motor for Robotic Applications	1857
<i>H.R. Choi, K.M. Jung, J.W. Kwak, S.W. Lee, H.M. Kim, J.W. Jeon, and J.D. Nam</i>	

WA11: Parallel Robot (III)

Identifiability of Geometric Parameters of 6-DOF PKM Systems Using a Minimum Set of Pose Error Data	1863
<i>Tian Huang, Jinsong Wang, Derek G. Chetwynd, and David J. Whitehouse</i>	
Optimal Design of Parallel Manipulators via LMI Approach	1869
<i>Y.J. Lou, G.F. Liu, and Z.X. Li</i>	
I4: A New Parallel Mechanism for Scara Motions	1875
<i>Sébastien Krut, Olivier Company, Michel Benoit, Hiromichi Ota, and François Pierrot</i>	
Singular Loci Analysis of 3/6-Stewart Manipulator by Singularity-Equivalent Mechanism	1881
<i>Yanwen Li, Zhen Huang, and Longhui Chen</i>	
Mobility Analysis of a 3-5R Parallel Mechanism Family	1887
<i>Qinchuan Li and Zhen Huang</i>	

WA12: Computational Intelligence (III)

An Iterative Framework for Projection-Based Image Sequence Registration	1893
<i>Joaquín Salas</i>	
An Atlas Framework for Scalable Mapping	1899
<i>Michael Bosse, Paul Newman, John Leonard, Martin Soika, Wendelin Feiten, and Seth Teller</i>	
Probabilistic Cooperative Localization and Mapping in Practice	1907
<i>Ioannis Rekleitis, Gregory Dudek, and Evangelos Miliotis</i>	
Local Exploration: Online Algorithms and a Probabilistic Framework	1913
<i>Volkan Isler, Sampath Kannan, and Kostas Daniilidis</i>	
Pure Range-only Sub-Sea SLAM	1921
<i>P. Newman and J. Leonard</i>	

WA13: Human Robot Interaction (III)

Dimensionality Reduction and Reproduction with Hierarchical NLPCA Neural Networks	
---	--

—Extracting Common Space of Multiple Humanoid Motion Patterns	1927
<i>Koji Tatani and Yoshihiko Nakamura</i>	
Switching Control of Position/Torque Control for Human-Robot Cooperative Task	
—Human-Robot Cooperative Carrying and Peg-in-Hole Task	1933
<i>Toru Tsumugiwa, Atsushi Sakamoto, Ryuichi Yokogawa, and Kei Hara</i>	
Behavior Developing Environment for the Large-DOF Muscle-Driven Humanoid Equipped with Numerous Sensors	1940
<i>Ikuo Mizuuchi, Tomoaki Yoshikai, Daisuke Sato, Shigenori Yoshida, Masayuki Inaba, and Hirochika Inoue</i>	
Wearable-Based Evaluation of Human-Robot Interactions in Robot Path-Planning	1946
<i>Ritsu Shikata, Takayuki Goto, Hiroshi Noborio, and Hiroshi Ishiguro</i>	
Spatial Motion Constraints: Theory and Demonstrations for Robot Guidance Using Virtual Fixtures	1954
<i>Panadda Marayong, Ming Li, Allison M. Okamura, and Gregory D. Hager</i>	

WA14: Sensor Localization and Mapping

Marco Polo Localization	1960
<i>Eric Beowulf Martinson and Frank Dellaert</i>	
Constrained Initialization for Bearing-only SLAM	1966
<i>Tim Bailey</i>	
Sound Localization Based on Mask Diffraction	1972
<i>S.S. Ge, A.P. Loh, and F. Guan</i>	
Outdoor Navigation of a Mobile Robot between Buildings Based on DGPS and Odometry Data Fusion	1978
<i>Kazunori Ohno, Takashi Tsubouchi, Bunji Shigematsu, Shoichi Maeyama, and Shin'ichi Yuta</i>	
Simultaneous Localization and Mapping with Unknown Data Association Using FastSLAM	1985
<i>Michael Montemerlo and Sebastian Thrun</i>	

WM1: Mobile Robot Navigation (III)

A Navigation Framework for Multiple Mobile Robots and Its Application at the Expo.02 Exhibition	1992
<i>Kai O. Arras, Roland Philippsen, Nicola Tomatis, Marc De Battista, Martin Schilt, and Roland Siegwart</i>	
Adapting Navigation Strategies Using Motions Patterns of People	2000
<i>Maren Bennewitz, Wolfram Burgard, and Sebastian Thrun</i>	
Navigation of Cleaning Robots Using Triangular-Cell Map for Complete Coverage	2006
<i>Joon Seop Oh, Yoon Ho Choi, Jin Bae Park, and Yuan F. Zheng</i>	
Integrating Terrain Maps into a Reactive Navigation Strategy	2012
<i>Ayanna Howard, Barry Werger, and Homayoun Seraji</i>	
μ NAV: A Minimalist Approach to Navigation	2018
<i>Alessandro Scalzo, Antonio Sgorbissa, and Renato Zaccaria</i>	

WM2: Control of Quadruped Walking Robot

A Biologically Inspired Four Legged Walking Robot	2024
<i>S. Peng, C.P. Lam, and G.R. Cole</i>	

Firm Standing of Legged Mobile Manipulator	2031
<i>Takashi Tagawa, Yasumichi Aiyama, and Hisashi Osumi</i>	
Adaptive Dynamic Walking of a Quadruped Robot 'Tekken' on Irregular Terrain Using a Neural System Model	2037
<i>Y. Fukuoka, H. Kimura, Y. Hada, and K. Takase</i>	
Adaptive Running of a Quadruped Robot on Irregular Terrain Based on Biological Concepts	2043
<i>Z.G. Zhang, Y. Fukuoka, and H. Kimura</i>	
Adaptive Gait for a Quadruped Robot on 3D Path Planning	2049
<i>Hiroshi Igarashi and Masayoshi Kakikura</i>	

WM3: Snake-like Robots

Control of Locomotion and Head Configuration of 3D Snake Robot (SMA)	2055
<i>Masaki Yamakita, Minoru Hashimoto, and Takeshi Yamada</i>	
Control of Redundant 3D Snake Robot Based on Kinematic Model	2061
<i>Fumitoshi Matsuno and Kentaro Suenaga</i>	
Control of a 3-Dimensional Snake-like Robot	2067
<i>Shugen Ma, Yoshihiro Ohmameuda, Kousuke Inoue, and Bin Li</i>	
Analysis of Creeping Locomotion of a Snake Robot on a Slope	2073
<i>Shugen Ma, Naoki Tadokoro, Bin Li, and Kousuke Inoue</i>	
Dynamic Control for a Tentacle Manipulator with SMA Actuators	2079
<i>Mircea Ivanescu, Nicu Bizdoaca, and Deniela Pana</i>	

WM4: Intelligent Transportation Systems

Locating Nearby Vehicles on Highway at Daytime Based on the Front Vision of a Moving Car	2085
<i>Ming-Yang Chern and Bor-Yeu Shyr</i>	
Traffic Monitoring Based on Real-Time Image Tracking	2091
<i>Ching-Po Lin, Jen-Chao Tai, and Kai-Tai Song</i>	
Driver Assistance: An Integration of Vehicle Monitoring and Control	2097
<i>Lars Petersson, Nicholas Apostoloff, and Alexander Zelinsky</i>	
Using Bayesian Programming for Multi-Sensor Multi-Target Tracking in Automotive Applications	2104
<i>C. Coué, Th. Fraichard, P. Bessière, and E. Mazer</i>	
The Lane Recognition and Vehicle Detection at Night for a Camera-Assisted Car on Highway	2110
<i>Ming-Yang Chern and Ping-Cheng Hou</i>	

WM5: 3D Vision (III)

Viewpoint Selection for Object Reconstruction Using only Local Geometric Features	2116
<i>K. Jonnalagadda, R. Lumia, G. Starr, and J. Wood</i>	
Robust Model-Based 3D Object Recognition by Combining Feature Matching with Tracking	2123
<i>Sungho Kim, Inso Kweon, and Incheol Kim</i>	

Dynamically Reconfigurable Visual Sensing for 3D Perception	2129
<i>S.Y. Chen and Y.F. Li</i>	
Simultaneous Shape and Motion Recovery: Geometry, Optimal Estimation, and Coordinate Descent Algorithms	2135
<i>Joonhyuk Choi, F.C. Park, and Munsang Kim</i>	
Vision-Based 2.5D Terrain Modeling for Humanoid Locomotion	2141
<i>Satoshi Kagami, Koichi Nishiwaki, James J. Kuffner, Kei Okada, Masayuki Inaba, and Hirochika Inoue</i>	

WM6: Manufacturing Systems Architecture and Design (II)

i-Fork: A Flexible AGV System Using Topological and Grid Maps	2147
<i>H. Martínez Barberá, J.P. Canovas Quiñero, M. Zamora Izquierdo, and A. Gomez Skarmeta</i>	
Functional Model Based Object-Oriented Development Framework for Mechatronic Systems	2153
<i>Mingjun Zhang, William Fisher, Peter Webb, and Tzyh-Jong Tarn</i>	
Avoiding Unsafe States in Manufacturing Systems Based on Polynomial Digraph Algorithms	2159
<i>Yin Wang and Zhiming Wu</i>	
The Application and Verification of Banker's Algorithm for Deadlock Avoidance in Flexible Manufacturing System with SPIN	2165
<i>Gang Xu and Zhiming Wu</i>	
New Finishing System for Metallic Molds Using a Hybrid Motion/Force Control	2171
<i>Fusaomi Nagata, Keigo Watanabe, Yukihiro Kusumoto, Kunihiro Tsuda, Kiminori Yasuda, Kazuhiko Yokoyama, and Naoki Mori</i>	

WM7: Control Applications (II)

Zero Power Control of 0.5KWh Class Flywheel System Using Magnetic Bearing with Gyroscopic Effect	2176
<i>Ya-Chong Zhang, Guo-Ji Sun and Ya-Jun Zhang</i>	
Control Design for the Rotation of Crane Loads for Boom Cranes	2182
<i>O. Sawodny, A. Hildebrandt, and K. Schneider</i>	
Application of Artificial Pneumatic Rubber Muscles to a Human Friendly Robot	2188
<i>Toshiro Noritsugu, Daisuke Sasaki, and Masahiro Takaiwa</i>	
Autonomous Control of a Horizontally Configured Undulatory Flap Propelled Vehicle	2194
<i>Stephen Hsu, Chris Mailey, Ethan Eade, and Jason Janét</i>	
Motion Planning of Aerial Robot Using Rapidly-Exploring Random Trees with Dynamic Constraints	2200
<i>Jongwoo Kim and James P. Ostrowski</i>	

WM8: Rehabilitation Robotics (I)

Exoskeleton for Human Upper-Limb Motion Support	2206
<i>Kazuo Kiguchi, Takakazu Tanaka, Keigo Watanabe, and Toshio Fukuda</i>	
Functional Assessment of Hand Orthopedic Disorders Using a Sensorised Glove: Preliminary Results	2212

Silvestro Micera, Ettore Cavallaro, Rossella Belli, Franco Zaccone, Eugenio Guglielmelli, Paolo Dario, Diego Collarini, Bruno Martinelli, Chiara Santin, and Renzo Marcovich

Modelling of the Human Paralysed Lower Limb under FES	2218
---	------

David Guiraud, Philippe Poignet, Pierre-Brice Wieber, Hassan El Makksoud, François Pierrot, Bernard Brogliato, Philippe Fraisse, Etienne Dombre, Jean-Louis Divoux, and Pierre Rabischong

Maneuvering a Bed Sheet for Repositioning a Bedridden Patient	2224
---	------

Binayak Roy, Arin Basmajian, and H. Harry Asada

Experimental Analysis of an Innovative Prosthetic Hand with Proprioceptive Sensors	2230
--	------

M.C. Carrozza, F. Vecchi, F. Sebastiani, G. Cappiello, S. Roccella, M. Zecca, R. Lazzarini, and P. Dario

WM9: Grasping and Manipulation (II)

Force Passivity in Fixturing and Grasping	2236
---	------

Michael Yu Wang and Yun-Hui Liu

Capturing a Convex Object with Three Discs	2242
--	------

Jeff Erickson, Shripad Thite, Fred Rothganger, and Jean Ponce

Application of "Generalized Attractive Region" in Orienting 3D Polyhedral Part	2248
--	------

Hong Qiao

Complementarity Formulation for Multi-Fingered Hand Manipulation with Rolling and Sliding Contacts	2255
--	------

Masahito Yashima and Hideya Yamaguchi

Implementation of Multi-Rigid-Body Dynamics within a Robotic Grasping Simulator	2262
---	------

Andrew T. Miller and Henrik I. Christensen

WM10: Multiple Robots Coordination

Cooperative Exploration of Mobile Robots Using Reaction-Diffusion Equation on a Graph	2269
---	------

Chomchana Trevai, Yusuke Fukazawa, Jun Ota, Hideo Yuasa, Tamio Arai, and Hajime Asama

A Strategy and a Fast Testing Algorithm for Object Caging by Multiple Cooperative Robots	2275
---	------

ZhiDong Wang, Vijay Kumar, Yasuhisa Hirata, and Kazuhiro Kosuge

Multi-Robot Team Response to a Multi-Robot Opponent Team	2281
--	------

James Bruce, Michael Bowling, Brett Browning, and Manuela Veloso

A Behaviour-Based Manipulator for Multi-Robot Transport Tasks	2287
---	------

Antonios K. Bouloubasis, Gerard T McKee, and Paul S. Schenker

Multi-Robot Task-Allocation through Vacancy Chains	2293
--	------

Torbjörn S. Dahl, Maja J. Matarić, and Gaurav S. Sukhatme

WM11: Reconfigurable Robot and Special Robot

Inverse Dynamics of Gel Robots Made of Electro-Active Polymer Gel	2299
---	------

Mihoko Otake, Yoshiharu Kagami, Yasuo Kuniyoshi, Masayuki Inaba, and Hirochika Inoue

Simple Self-Transfer Aid Robotic System	2305
---	------

Yoshihiko Takahashi, Go Manabe, Katsumi Takahashi, and Takuro Hatakeyama

Highly Compliant and Self-Tightening Docking Modules for Precise and	
--	--

Fast Connection of Self-Reconfigurable Robots	2311
<i>Behrokh Khoshnevis, Peter Will, and Wei-Min Shen</i>	
Adaptability of Reconfigurable Robotic Systems	2317
<i>Z.M. Bi, W.A. Gruver, and W.J. Zhang</i>	
Design of a New Exoskeletal Mechanism for a Shoulder Joint of Wearable Robots: The Wearable HEXA Mechanism	2323
<i>Tetsuya Morizono, Yoji Yamada, Yoji Umetani, Takahisa Yamamoto, Tetsuji Yoshida, and Shigeru Aoki</i>	

WM12: Mathematical Optimization

GA-Based Robust H_2 Controller Design Approach for Active Suspension Systems	2330
<i>Chein-Chung Sun, Huan-Yuan Chung, and Wen-Jer Chang</i>	
Stability on a Manifold: Simultaneous Realization of Grasp and Orientation Control of an Object by a Pair of Robot Fingers	2336
<i>S. Arimoto, J.-H. Bae, and K. Tahara</i>	
Intrinsic Localization and Mapping with 2 Applications: Diffusion Mapping and Marco Polo Localization	2344
<i>Frank Dellaert, Fernando Alegre, and Eric Beowulf Martinson</i>	
Slack Variable Method for State Variable Constraint	2350
<i>Takeuchi Hiroki</i>	
Vector Quantization for State-Action Map Compression	2356
<i>Ryuichi Ueda, Takeshi Fukase, Yuichi Kobayashi, and Tamio Arai</i>	

WM13: Human Robot Interaction (IV)

Interaction among Human, Machine and Patient with Work State Transition	2362
<i>Takeshi Koyama, Takayuki Tanaka, Kazuo Tanaka, and Maria Q. Feng</i>	
Enabling Real-Time Full-Body Imitation: A Natural Way of Transferring Human Movement to Humanoids	2368
<i>Marcia Riley, Ales Ude, Keegan Wade, and Christopher G. Atkeson</i>	
Visual Transformations in Gesture Imitation: What You See is What You Do	2375
<i>Manuel Cabido-Lopes and José Santos-Victor</i>	
Affect-Sensitive Human-Robot Cooperation: Theory and Experiments	2382
<i>Pramila Rani, Nilanjan Sarkar, and Craig A. Smith</i>	
Multi-Robot Human-Interaction and Visitor Flow Management	2388
<i>B. Jensen, G. Froidevaux, X. Greppin, A. Lorotte, L. Mayor, M. Meisser, G. Ramel, and R. Siegwart</i>	

WM14: Sensor-Based Robotics (I)

A Multiagent Multisensor Based Real-Time Sensory Control System for Intelligent Security Robot	2394
<i>Ren C. Luo and Kuo L. Su</i>	
Robotic Catching Using a Direct Mapping from Visual Information to Motor Command	2400
<i>Akio Namiki and Masatoshi Ishikawa</i>	
Computing C-Space Entropy for View Planning with a Generic Range Sensor Model	2406
<i>Pengpeng Wang and Kamal Gupta</i>	

Towards a Haptic Black Box for Free-Hand Softness and Shape Discrimination	2412
<i>Enzo Pasquale Scilingo, Nicola Sgambelluri, Danilo De Rossi, and Antonio Bicchi</i>	
Development of a Smart Robotic Gripper for Shape and Vibration Control of Flexible Payloads: Theory and Experiments	2418
<i>Edward J. Park, Gary Li, and James K. Mills</i>	

WP1: Mobile Robot Path Planning

Extracting Optimal Paths from Roadmaps for Motion Planning	2424
<i>Jinsuck Kim, Roger A. Pearce, and Nancy M. Amato</i>	
Towards Motion Autonomy of a Bi-Steerable Car: Experimental Issues from Map-Building to Trajectory Execution	2430
<i>J. Hermosillo, C. Pradalier, S. Sekhavat, C. Laugier, and G. Baille</i>	
Simplified Navigation and Traverse Planning for a Long-Range Planetary Rover	2436
<i>David P. Miller, Li Tan, and Scott Swindell</i>	
An Adaptive Motion Prediction Model for Trajectory Planner Systems	2442
<i>A. Elnagar and A.M. Hussein</i>	
Region Exploration Path Planning for a Mobile Robot Expressing Working Environment by Grid Points	2448
<i>Yusuke Fukazawa, Trevai Chomchana, Jun Ota, Hideo Yuasa, Tamio Arai, and Hajime Asama</i>	

WP2: Control of Biped Robot (IV)

Trajectory Planning for Smooth Transition of a Biped Robot	2455
<i>Zhe Tang, Changjiu Zhou, and Zngi Sun</i>	
Motion Control of Biped Robots Using a Single-Chip Drive	2461
<i>Sung-Nam Oh, Kab-Il Kim, and Seungchul Lim</i>	
Development of Dinosaur-like Robot TITRUS—The Efficacy of the Neck and Tail of Miniature Dinosaur-like Robot TITRUS-III	2466
<i>Kensuke Takita, Toshio Katayama, and Shigeo Hirose</i>	
Cooperation of Dynamic Patterns and Sensory Reflex for Humanoid Walking	2472
<i>Guang Wang, Qiang Huang, Juhong Geng, Hongbin Deng, and Kejie Li</i>	
Analysis of Dynamics of Passive Walking from Storage Energy and Supply Rate	2478
<i>Akihito Sano, Yoshito Ikemata, and Hideo Fujimoto</i>	

WP3: Cooperative Control of Multi-Vehicle Systems

Vehicle Motion Planning Using Stream Functions	2484
<i>Stephen Waydo and Richard M. Murray</i>	
Obstacle Avoidance in Formation	2492
<i>Petter Ögren and Naomi Ehrich Leonard</i>	
Abstraction and Control for Groups of Fully-Actuated Planar Robots	2498
<i>Calin Belta and Vijay Kumar</i>	
Cooperative Task Planning of Multi-Robot Systems with Temporal Constraints	2504
<i>Feng-Li Lian and Richard Murray</i>	

Control of Small Formations Using Shape Coordinates	2510
<i>Fumin Zhang, Michael Goldgeier, and P.S. Krishnaprasad</i>	

WP4: Space Robots

Self-Assembly in Space via Self-Reconfigurable Robots	2516
<i>Wei-Min Shen, Peter Will, and Berok Khoshnevis</i>	
Trajectory Control of a Flexible Space Manipulator Utilizing a Macro-Micro Architecture	2522
<i>T.W. Yang, Z.Q. Sun, S.K. Tso, and W.L. Xu</i>	
Automated Object Capturing with a Two-Arm Flexible Manipulator	2529
<i>Tomohiro Miyabe, Atsushi Konno, and Masaru Uchiyama</i>	
Instrument Deployment for Mars Rovers	2535
<i>L. Pedersen, M. Bualat, C. Kunz, S. Lee, R. Sargent, R. Washington, and A. Wright</i>	
Evolution of the NASA/DARPA Robonaut Control System	2543
<i>M.A. Diffler, R. Platt Jr., C.J. Culbert, R.O. Ambrose, and W.J. Bluthmann</i>	

WP5: Visual Sensing and Application (II)

Real-Time Vision-Based Contour Following with Laser Pointer	2549
<i>Wen-Chung Chang and Mong-Lu Chai</i>	
Modeling of Ultrasound Sensor for Pipe Inspection	2555
<i>Francisco Gomez, Kaspar Althoefer, and Lakmal D. Seneviratne</i>	
Experiments Using a Laser-Based Transducer and Automated Analysis Techniques for Pipe Inspection	2561
<i>Olga Duran, Kaspar Althoefer, and Lakmal D. Seneviratne</i>	
Real-Time Estimation of Facial Expression Intensity	2567
<i>Ka Keung Lee and Yangsheng Xu</i>	
Evaluation of Shadow Range Finder: SRF for Planetary Surface Exploration	2573
<i>Yasuharu Kunii and Taeko Gotoh</i>	

WP6: Assembly Systems Design and Planning (I)

Experiments in Fixturing Mechanics	2579
<i>Joel W. Burdick, Yongqiang Liang, and Elon Rimon</i>	
An Easily Reconfigurable Robotic Assembly System	2586
<i>Yusuke Maeda, Haruka Kikuchi, Hidemitsu Izawa, Hiroki Ogawa, Masao Sugi, and Tamio Arai</i>	
Efficient Contact State Graph Generation for Assembly Applications	2592
<i>Feng Pan and Joseph M. Schimmels</i>	
Active Sensing for the Identification of Geometrical Parameters during Autonomous Compliant Motion	2599
<i>Tine Lefebvre, Herman Bruyninckx, and Joris De Schutter</i>	
Haptic Modeling of Contact Formations and Compliant Motion	2605
<i>Jing Xiao, Qi Luo, and Song You</i>	

WP7: Control Applications (III)

Sliding Control for Linear Uncertain Systems	2611
<i>C.W. Tao, M.L. Chan, and W.Y. Wang</i>	
State Variance Constrained Fuzzy Controller Design for Nonlinear TORA Systems with Minimizing Control Input Energy.....	2616
<i>Wen-Jer Chang and Sheng-Ming Wu</i>	
Robust Spatially Sampled Controller Design for Banding Reduction in Electrophotographic Process	2622
<i>Cheng-Lun Chen, George T.C. Chiu, and Jan P. Allebach</i>	
Design of a Static Anti-Windup Compensator that Optimizes L_2 Performance: An LMI Based Approach.....	2628
<i>Nobutaka Wada and Masami Saeki</i>	
Smart Neuro-Fuzzy Based Control of a Rotary Hammer Drill	2634
<i>Chr. W. Frey, A. Jacubasch, H.-B. Kuntze, and R. Plietsch</i>	

WP8: Endoluminal Surgery-Microendoscopy (II)

Micro Hydrodynamic Actuated Multiple Segments Catheter for Safety Minimally Invasive Therapy	2640
<i>Koji Ikuta, Hironobu Ichikawa, Katsuya Suzuki, and Takahiro Yamamoto</i>	
A Laparoscopic Robot with Intuitive Interface for Gynecological Laser Laparoscopy	2646
<i>Hsiao-Wei Tang, Hendrik Van Brussel, Dominiek Reynaerts, Jos Vander Sloten, and Philippe R. Koninckx</i>	
Design of an Advanced Tool Guiding System for Robotic Surgery	2651
<i>Jan Peirs, Dominiek Reynaerts, Hendrik Van Brussel, Gudrun De Gersem, and Hsiao-Wei Tang</i>	
A New Active Microendoscope for Exploring the Sub-Arachnoid Space in the Spinal Cord	2657
<i>Luca Ascari, Cesare Stefanini, Arianna Mencassi, Sambit Sahoo, Pierre Rabischong, and Paolo Dario</i>	
Development of a Remote Minimally-Invasive Surgical System with Operational Environment Transmission Capability	2663
<i>Mamoru Mitsuishi, Jumpei Arata, Katsuya Tanaka, Manabu Miyamoto, Takumi Yoshidome, Satoru Iwata, Shin'ichi Warisawa, and Makoto Hashizume</i>	

WP9: Grasping and Manipulation (III)

Regrasp Planning for a 4-Fingered Hand Manipulating a Polygon	2671
<i>Attawith Sudsang and Thanathorn Phoka</i>	
Extending Fingertip Grasping to Whole Body Grasping	2677
<i>Robert Platt Jr., Andrew H. Fagg, and Roderic A. Grupen</i>	
Convergence Analysis and Experimental Study of Geometric Algorithms for Real-Time Grasping Force Optimization	2683
<i>G.F. Liu, J.J. Xu, and Z.X. Li</i>	
Randomized Manipulation Planning for a Multi-Fingered Hand by Switching Contact Modes	2689
<i>Masahito Yashima, Yoshikazu Shiina, and Hideya Yamaguchi</i>	
A Comparative Study of Geometric Algorithms for Real-Time Grasping Force Optimization	2695
<i>G.F. Liu, J.J. Xu, and Z.X. Li</i>	

WP10: Multi-Robot Systems (I)

Rules and Control Strategies of Multi-Robot Team Moving in Hierarchical Formation	2701
<i>Tien-Sung Chio and Tzyh-Jong Tarn</i>	
Multi-Vehicle Pursuit-Evasion: An Agent-Based Framework	2707
<i>Kingsley Fregene, Diane Kennedy, and David Wang</i>	
Efficient Exploration without Localization	2714
<i>Maxim A. Batalin and Gaurav S. Sukhatme</i>	
Real Time Multi-UAV Simulator	2720
<i>Ali Haydar Göktogan, Eric Nettleton, Matthew Ridley, and Salah Sukkarieh</i>	
Learning to Role-Switch in Multi-Robot Systems	2727
<i>Eric Martinson and Ronald C. Arkin</i>	

WP11: Redundant Robots

A Miniature Inspection Robot Negotiating Pipes of Widely Varying Diameter	2735
<i>Koichi Suzumori, Shuichi Wakimoto, and Masanori Takata</i>	
Measurement Method for Compliance of Vertical-Multi-Articulated Robot —Application to 7-DOF Robot PA-10	2741
<i>Toru Tsumugiwa, Ryuichi Yokogawa, and Kei Hara</i>	
Obstacle Avoidance of Redundant Manipulators Using a Dual Neural Network	2747
<i>Yunong Zhang and Jun Wang</i>	
A New Method for Motion Planning of Redundant Manipulators Using Singular Configurations	2753
<i>J. Alfonso Pámanes G. and JoséLuis Zapata D.</i>	
Motion Analysis of a Kinematically Redundant Seven-DOF Manipulator under the Singularity-Consistent Method	2760
<i>Dragomir N. Nenche and Yuichi Tsumaki</i>	

WP12: Control Architectures

The Real-Time Motion Control Core of the Orocos Project	2766
<i>Herman Bruyninckx, Peter Soetens, and Bob Koninckx</i>	
An Object-Oriented Controller Architecture for Flexible Parts Feeding Systems	2772
<i>Greg Causey</i>	
A Hierarchical Behavior-Based Approach to Manipulation Tasks	2780
<i>Zbigniew Wasik and Alessandro Saffiotti</i>	
Embedded FPGA-Based Control of a Multifingered Robotic Hand	2786
<i>Giuseppe Casalino, Fabio Giorgi, Alessio Turetta, and Andrea Caffaz</i>	
Tripodal Schematic Design of the Control Architecture for the Service Robot PSR	2792
<i>Gunhee Kim, Woojin Chung, Munsang Kim, and Chongwon Lee</i>	

WP13: Telerobotics

Virtual Fixture Architectures for Telemanipulation	2798
<i>Jake J. Abbott and Allison M. Okamura</i>	

Robonaut Task Learning through Teleoperation	2806
<i>Richard Alan Peters II, Christina L. Campbell, William J. Blumethmann, and Eric Huber</i>	
Predictive Display Models for Tele-Manipulation from Uncalibrated Camera-Capture of Scene Geometry and Appearance	2812
<i>Keith Yerex, Dana Cobzas, and Martin Jagersand</i>	
Kalman Filter Analysis for Quantitative Comparison of Sensory Schemes in Bilateral Teleoperation Systems	2818
<i>M. Cenk Çavuşoğlu and Frank Tendick</i>	
Workspace Deformation Based Teleoperation for the Increase of Movement Precision	2824
<i>A. Casals, L. Muñoz, and J. Amat</i>	

WP14: Mobile Robot Localization

A Reliable Position Estimation Method of the Service Robot by Map Matching	2830
<i>Dongheui Lee, Woojin Chung, and Munsang Kim</i>	
Adaptive Real-Time Particle Filters for Robot Localization	2836
<i>Cody Kwok, Dieter Fox, and Marina Meilă</i>	
Efficient Entropy-Based Action Selection for Appearance-Based Robot Localization	2842
<i>J.M. Porta, B. Terwijn, and B. Kröse</i>	
Mobile Robot Localization with an Incomplete Map in Non-Stationary Environments	2848
<i>Kanji Tanaka, Tsutomu Hasegawa, Hongbin Zha, Eiji Kondo, and Nobuhiro Okada</i>	
Feature-Based Localization Using Scannable Visibility Sectors	2854
<i>Jinsuck Kim, Roger A. Pearce, and Nancy M. Amato</i>	

WE2: Industry Session (I) : Advanced Industrial Robot Systems

The Development of the Advanced Carrier System by IDC (Intelligent Data Career)	2860
<i>M. Sameshima, N. Kawauchi, and T. Oomichi</i>	
An Autonomous Production System that Coexists Harmoniously with Human —Development of Autonomous Mobile Robot System	2865
<i>Hitoshi Hibi</i>	
A Fast Collision-Free Path Planning Method for a General Robot Manipulator	2871
<i>Shingo Ando</i>	
The Latest Robot Systems which Reinforce Manufacturing Sector	2878
<i>Shinsuke Sakakibara</i>	

WE3: Industry Session (II) : Robotics and Automation in Biotechnology

On the Trajectory Formation of the Human Arm Constrained by the External Environment	2884
<i>K. Ohta, M.M. Svinin, Z.W. Luo, and S. Hosoe</i>	
Micromachined Fluid Ejector Arrays for Biotechnological and Biomedical Applications	2892
<i>Gökhan Perçin, Göksenin G. Yaralioglu, and Butrus T. Khuri-Yakub</i>	
DNA Microarray Manufacturing Factory Automation	2895
<i>Mingjun Zhang, Karen Griswold, William Fisher, and Tzyh-Jong Tarn</i>	

An Auto-Teach/Re-Teach Implementation of Industrial Robots for Bio-Product Manufacturing Automation.....	2901
<i>WeiMin Tao, Bert Larson, and Clay Kim</i>	

ThA1: Motion Planning (I)

Path Planning Using Learned Constraints and Preferences	2907
<i>Gregory Dudek and Saul Simhon</i>	
A Method for Handling Multiple Roadmaps and Its Use for Complex Manipulation Planning	2914
<i>F. Gravot and R. Alami</i>	
Incremental Low-Discrepancy Lattice Methods for Motion Planning	2920
<i>Stephen R. Lindemann and Steven M. LaValle</i>	
Online Motion Planning Using Incremental Construction of Medial Axis	2928
<i>Ellips Masehian, M.R. Amin-Naseri, and S. Esmailzadeh Khadem</i>	
On Addressing the Run-Cost Variance in Randomized Motion Planners	2934
<i>Pekka Isto, Martti Mäntylä, and Juha Tuominen</i>	

ThA2: Micro and Pipe Crawler Walking Robot

A Ciliary Based 8-Legged Walking Micro Robot Using Cast IPMC Actuators	2940
<i>Byungkyu Kim, Jaewook Ryu, Younkoo Jeong, Younghun Tak, Byungmok Kim, and Jong-Oh Park</i>	
Motion Planning for a Three-Limbed Climbing Robot in Vertical Natural Terrain	2946
<i>Timothy Bretl, Stephen Rock, and Jean-Claude Latombe</i>	
"MORITZ" a Pipe Crawler for Tube Junctions	2954
<i>Andreas Zagler and Friedrich Pfeiffer</i>	
Microfabricated Thermally Actuated Microrobot	2960
<i>Agnès Bonvilain and Nicolas Chaillet</i>	
PCG: A Foothold Selection Algorithm for Spider Robot Locomotion in 2D Tunnels	2966
<i>Amir Shapiro and Elon Rimon</i>	

ThA3: Humanoid Robotics Project of METI

A Plant Maintenance Humanoid Robot System—Navigation System of Autonomous and Tele-Operation Fusion Control	2973
<i>Naoto Kawauchi, Shigetoshi Shiotani, Hiroyuki Kanazawa, Taku Sasaki, and Hiroshi Tsuji</i>	
Development of User Interface for Humanoid Service Robot System	2979
<i>Takashi Nishiyama, Hiroshi Hoshino, Kazuya Sawada, Yoshihiko Tokunaga, Hirotatsu Shinomiya, Mitsunori Yoneda, Ikuo Takeuchi, Yukiko Ichige, Shizuko Hattori, and Atsuo Takanishi</i>	
Cooperative Works by a Human and a Humanoid Robot	2985
<i>Kazuhiko Yokoyama, Hiroyuki Handa, Takakatsu Isozumi, Yutaro Fukase, Kenji Kaneko, Fumio Kanehiro, Yoshihiro Kawai, Fumiaki Tomita, and Hirohisa Hirukawa</i>	
Application of Humanoid Robots to Building and Home Management Services	2992
<i>Naoyuki Sawasaki, Toshiya Nakajima, Atsushi Shiraishi, Shinya Nakamura, Kiyoshi Wakabayashi, and Yusuke Sugawara</i>	
A Tele-Operated Humanoid Robot Drives a Backhoe	2998
<i>Hitoshi Hasunuma, Katsumi Nakashima, Masami Kobayashi, Fumisato Mifune, Yoshitaka Yanagihara, Takao Ueno, Kazuhisa Ohya, and Kazuhito Yokoi</i>	

ThA4: Complex Robotic Systems

A Synchronization Approach to the Mutual Error Control of a Mobile Manipulator	3005
<i>Dong Sun and Garry Feng</i>	
Mode Shape Compensator for Improving Robustness of Manipulator Mounted on Flexible Base	3011
<i>Jun Ueda and Tsuneo Yoshikawa</i>	
Landing Control of Acrobat Robot (SMB) Satisfying Various Constraints	3017
<i>Teruyoshi Sadahiro and Masaki Yamakita</i>	
Cable-Suspended Planar Parallel Robots with Redundant Cables: Controllers with Positive Cable Tensions	3023
<i>So-Ryeok Oh and Sunil K. Agrawal</i>	
Optimal Motion Planning of Free-Flying Robots	3029
<i>R. Lampariello, S. Agrawal, and G. Hirzinger</i>	

ThA5: Visual Servoing (I)

Positioning Control of the Arm of the Humanoid Robot by Linear Visual Servoing	3036
<i>Kyota Namba and Noriaki Maru</i>	
Sliding PID Uncalibrated Visual Servoing for Finite-Time Tracking of Planar Robots	3042
<i>V. Parra-Vega and J.D. Fierro-Rojas</i>	
Adaptive Sliding Mode Uncalibrated Visual Servoing for Finite-Time Tracking of 2D Robot	3048
<i>V. Parra-Vega, J.D. Fierro-Rojas, and A. Espinosa-Romero</i>	
Visual Servoing Based on Dynamic Vision	3055
<i>Ali Alhaj, Christophe Collewet, and François Chaumette</i>	
An Experimental Study of Hybrid Switched System Approaches to Visual Servoing	3061
<i>Nicholas R. Gans and Seth A. Hutchinson</i>	

ThA6: Assembly Systems Design and Planning (II)

Error-Tolerant Execution of Complex Robot Tasks Based on Skill Primitives	3069
<i>Ulrike Thomas, Bernd Finkemeyer, Torsten Kröger, and Friedrich M. Wahl</i>	
Strategies of Human-Robot Interactions for Automatic Microassembly	3076
<i>Antoine Ferreira</i>	
Admittance Selection for Planar Force-Guided Assembly for Single-Point Contact with Friction	3082
<i>Shuguang Huang and Joseph M. Schimmels</i>	
Dynamic Modeling of the Body Inversion for Automated Transfer of Live Birds	3089
<i>Kok-Meng Lee and Chris Shumway</i>	
Sufficient Conditions for Admittance to Ensure Planar Force-Assembly in Multi-Point Frictionless Contact	3095
<i>Shuguang Huang and Joseph M. Schimmels</i>	

ThA7: Flexible Manipulator Control and Estimation

Decoupling Based Cartesian Impedance Control of Flexible Joint Robots	3101
<i>Christian Ott, Alin Albu-Schäffer, Andreas Kugi, and Gerd Hirzinger</i>	

Design and Simulation of Robust Composite Controllers for Flexible Joint Robots	3108
<i>H.D. Taghirad and M.A. Khosravi</i>	
Design and Experimental Evaluation of a Single Robust Position/Force Controller for a Single Flexible Link (SFL) Manipulator in Collision	3114
<i>Kamyar Ziaei and David W.L. Wang</i>	
Estimation of the Flexural States of a Macro-Micro Manipulator Using Acceleration Data	3120
<i>K. Parsa, J. Angeles, and A.K. Misra</i>	
A New Impedance Control Concept for Elastic Joint Robots—A Case of 1 DOF Robot with Programmable Linear Passive Impedance	3126
<i>R. Ozawa and H. Kobayashi</i>	

ThA8: Neuro-Robotics (I)

From Visuo-Motor Self Learning to Early Imitation—A Neural Architecture for Humanoid Learning	3132
<i>Yasuo Kuniyoshi, Yasuaki Yorozu, Masayuki Inaba, and Hirochika Inoue</i>	
Learning about Objects through Action—Initial Steps towards Artificial Cognition	3140
<i>Paul Fitzpatrick, Giorgio Metta, Lorenzo Natale, Sajit Rao, and Giulio Sandini</i>	
Motor Learning Model Using Reinforcement Learning with Neural Internal Model	3146
<i>Jun Izawa, Toshiyuki Kondo, and Koji Ito</i>	
Statistical Analysis and Comparison of Questionnaire Results of Subjective Evaluations of Seal Robot in Japan and U.K.	3152
<i>Takanori Shibata, Kazuyoshi Wada, and Kazuo Tanie</i>	
A Biologically Inspired Homeostatic Motion Controller for Autonomous Mobile Robots	3158
<i>Do-Young Yoon, Sang-Rok Oh, Gwi-Tae Park, and Bum Jae You</i>	

ThA9: Grasping and Manipulation (IV)

The HIT/DLR Dexterous Hand: Work in Progress	3164
<i>X.H. Gau, M.H. Jin, L. Jiang, Z.W. Xie, P. He, L. Yang, Y.W. Liu, R. Wei, H.G. Cai, H. Liu, J. Butterfass, M. Grebenstein, N. Seitz, and G. Hirzinger</i>	
Development of a Soft-Fingertip and Its Modeling Based on Force Distribution	3169
<i>Kwi-Ho Park, Byoung-Ho Kim, and Shinichi Hirai</i>	
From Nominal to Robust Planning: The Plate-Ball Manipulation System	3175
<i>Giuseppe Oriolo, Marilena Vendittelli, Alessia Marigo, and Antonio Bicchi</i>	
Motion Sensing for Robot Hands Using MIDS	3181
<i>Alan H. F. Lam, Raymond H.W. Lam, Wen J. Li, Martin Y.Y. Leung, and Yunhui Liu</i>	
Mechatronic Design of Innovative Fingers for Anthropomorphic Robot Hands	3187
<i>L. Biagiotti, F. Lotti, C. Melchiorri, and G. Vassura</i>	

ThA10: Micro Robotics (III)

Microassembly of 3-D MEMS Structures Utilizing a MEMS Microgripper with a Robotic Manipulator	3193
<i>Nikolai Dechev, William L. Cleghorn, and James K. Mills</i>	

Micromanipulation Contact Transition Control by Selective Focusing and Microforce Control	3200
<i>Ge Yang and Bradley J. Nelson</i>	
Two-Dimensional Signal Transmission Technology for Robotics	3207
<i>Hiroyuki Shinoda, Naoya Asamura, Mitsuhiro Hakozaki, and Xinyu Wang</i>	
Micropeg Manipulation with a Compliant Microgripper	3213
<i>Woo Ho Lee, Byoung Hun Kang, Young Seok Oh, Harry Stephanou, Arthur C. Sanderson, George Skidmore, and Matthew Ellis</i>	
Levitated Micro-Nano Force Sensor Using Diamagnetic Materials	3219
<i>Mehdi Boukallel, Joël Abadie, and Emmanuel Piat</i>	

ThA11: Robot Design

Design and Modeling of Classes of Spatial Reactionless Manipulators	3225
<i>Abbas Fattah and Sunil K. Agrawal</i>	
A Comparison of the Oxford and Manus Intelligent Hand Prostheses	3231
<i>P.J. Kyberd and J.L. Pons</i>	
Mechatronics Design and Kinematic Modelling of a Singularityless Omni-Directional Wheeled Mobile Robot	3237
<i>W.K. Loh, K.H. Low, and Y.P. Leow</i>	
Design of a 6DOF Haptic Master for Teleoperation of a Mobile Manipulator	3243
<i>Dongseok Ryu, Changhyun Cho, Munsang Kim, and Jae-Bok Song</i>	
A Passive Robot System for Measuring Spacesuit Joint Damping Parameters	3249
<i>H. Wang, X.H. Gao, M.H. Jin, L.B. Du, J.D. Zhao, H.Y. Hu, H.G. Cai, T.Q. Li, and H. Liu</i>	

ThA12: Identification and Control

Parameters Identification and Vibration Control for Modular Manipulators	3254
<i>Yangmin Li, Yugang Liu, Xiaoping Liu, and Zhaoyang Peng</i>	
Experimental Identification and Evaluation of Performance of a 2DOF Haptic Display	3260
<i>Antonio Frisoli and Massimo Bergamasco</i>	
A Robust Friction Control Scheme of Robot Manipulators	3266
<i>Jeng-Shi Chen and Jyh-Ching Juang</i>	
Identification of the Dynamic Parameters of the Orthoglide	3272
<i>Sylvain Guegan, Wisama Kahlil, and Philippe Lemoine</i>	
Experimental Dynamic Identification of a Fully Parallel Robot	3278
<i>Andr�s Vivas, Philippe Poignet, Fr�d�ric Marquet, Fran�ois Pierrot, and Maxime Gautier</i>	

ThA13: Teleoperation

Pattern-Based Architecture for Building Mobile Robotics Remote Laboratoires	3284
<i>A. Khamis, D.M. Rivero, F. Rodr�guez, and M. Salichs</i>	
Digital Passive Geometric Telemanipulation	3290
<i>C. Secchi, S. Stramigioli, and C. Fantuzzi</i>	
Impedance Reflecting Rate Mode Teleoperation	3296
<i>F. Mobasser, K. Hashtrudi-Zaad, and S.E. Salcudean</i>	

Laboratory Tools for Robotics and Automation Education	3303
<i>Claudio Cosma, Mirko Confente, Debora Botturi, and Paolo Fiorini</i>	
Passivity Analysis of Sampled-Data Interactive Systems	3309
<i>Ravi Hebbar and Wyatt S. Newman</i>	

ThA14: Sensor-Based Robotics (II)

Uncalibrated Visual Servoing Technique Using Large Residual	3315
<i>G.W. Kim, B.H. Lee, and M.S. Kim</i>	
STOMP: A Software Architecture for the Design and Simulation of UAV-Based Sensor Networks	3321
<i>Erik D. Jones, Randy S. Roberts, and T.C. Steve Hsia</i>	
Uncalibrated Robotic 3-D Hand-Eye Coordination Based on the Extended State Observer	3327
<i>Hongyu Ma and Jianbo Su</i>	
Robust Visual Tracking Using a Fixed Multi-Camera System	3333
<i>Vincenzo Lippiello, Bruno Siciliano, and Luigi Villani</i>	
Development of Piezoelectric Bending Actuators with Embedded Piezoelectric Sensors for Micromechanical Flapping Mechanisms	3339
<i>Domenico Campolo, Ranjana Sahai, and Ronald S. Fearing</i>	

ThM1: Motion Planning (II)

Online Motion Planning Using Laplace Potential Fields	3347
<i>Diego Alvarez, Juan C. Alvarez, and Rafael C. González</i>	
Potential-Based Path Planning for Robot Manipulators in 3-D Workspace	3353
<i>Chien-Chou Lin and Jen-Hui Chuang</i>	
Dual Dijkstra Search for Paths with Different Topologies	3359
<i>Yusuke Fujita, Yoshihiko Nakamura, and Zvi Shiller</i>	
A Novel Potential-Based Path Planning of 3-D Articulated Robots with Moving Bases	3365
<i>Chien-Chou Lin, Chi-Chun Pan, and Jen-Hui Chuang</i>	
Improved Analysis of D^*	3371
<i>Craig Tovey, Sam Greenberg, and Sven Koenig</i>	

ThM2: Mobile Robot Control (I)

On the Nonlinear Controllability of a Quasiholonomic Mobile Robot	3379
<i>Alessio Salerno and Jorge Angeles</i>	
Exploiting Redundancy to Implement Multi-Objective Behavior	3385
<i>Yuandong Yang, Oliver Brock, and Roderic A. Grupen</i>	
Bilateral Time-Scaling for Control of Task Freedoms of a Constrained Nonholonomic System	3391
<i>Siddhartha S. Srinivasa, Michael A. Erdmann, and Matthew T. Mason</i>	
Development of a Mobile Robot for Visually Guided Handling of Material	3397
<i>T.I. James Tsay, M.S. Hsu, and R.X. Lin</i>	
Trajectory Planning of Mobile Manipulator with Stability Considerations	3403
<i>Seiji Furuno, Motoji Yamamoto, and Akira Mohri</i>	

ThM3: Mobile Robot Control (II)

Motion Control for Vehicle with Unknown Operating Properties —On-Line Data Acquisition and Motion Planning	3409
<i>Kazuya Okawa and Shin'ichi Yuta</i>	
Remote Control of a Mobile Robot Using Distance-Based Reflective Force	3415
<i>J.B. Park, B.H. Lee, and M.S. Kim</i>	
Motion Planning for Humanoid Walking in a Layered Environment	3421
<i>Tsai-Yen Li, Pei-Feng Chen, and Pei-Zhi Huang</i>	
Enhancing the Reactive Capabilities of Integrated Planning and Control with Cooperative Extended Kohonen Maps	3428
<i>Kian Hsiang Low, Wee Kheng Leow, and Marcelo H. Ang Jr.</i>	
RoboDaemon—A Device Independent, Network-Oriented, Modular Mobile Robot Controller	3434
<i>Gregory Dudek and Robert Sim</i>	

ThM4: New Robotics

A Vision-Based Haptic Exploration	3441
<i>Hiromi T. Tanaka, Kiyotaka Kushihami, Naoki Ueda, and Shin'ichi Hirai</i>	
Vision Based Shape Estimation for Continuum Robots	3449
<i>Michael Hannan and Ian Walker</i>	
Learning Human Control Strategy for Dynamically Stable Robots: Support Vector Machine Approach	3455
<i>Yongsheng Ou and Yangsheng Xu</i>	
Perceptual Navigation Strategy: A Unified Approach to Interception of Ground Balls and Fly Balls	3461
<i>Keshav Mundhra, Thomas G. Sugar, and Michael K. McBeath</i>	
Stereo Omnidirectional Vision for a Hopping Robot	3467
<i>Mirko Confente, Paolo Fiorini, and Giovanni Bianco</i>	

ThM5: Visual Tracking

Real-Time Tracking and Pose Estimation for Industrial Objects Using Geometric Features	3473
<i>Youngrock Yoon, Guilherme N. DeSouza, and Avinash C. Kak</i>	
Trajectory Generation for Constant Velocity Target Motion Estimation Using Monocular Vision	3479
<i>Eric W. Frew and Stephen M. Rock</i>	
Confluence of Parameters in Model Based Tracking	3485
<i>D. Kragic and H.I. Christensen</i>	
Visual Position Tracking Using Dual Quaternions with Hand-Eye Motion Constraints	3491
<i>Tomas Olsson, Johan Bengtsson, Anders Robertsson, and Rolf Johansson</i>	
Fast 3D Tracking of Non-Rigid Objects	3497
<i>Nobuhiro Okada and Martial Hebert</i>	

ThM6: Computer Aided Production Planning (I)

A General Framework for Automatic CAD-Guided Tool Planning for Surface Manufacturing	3504
<i>Heping Chen, Ning Xi, Weihua Sheng, Yifan Chen, Allen Roche, and Jeffrey Dahl</i>	
Conflict-Free Routing of AGVs on the Mesh Topology Based on a Discrete-Time Model	3510
<i>Jianyang Zeng and Wen-Jing Hsu</i>	
Development of an Automatic Mold Polishing System	3517
<i>Ming J. Tsai, Jau-Lung Chang, and Jian-Feng Haung</i>	
Locating and Checking of a BGA Pin's Position Using Gray Level	3523
<i>Chi-Wei Ruo and Ching-Long Shih</i>	
High Efficient Robotic De-Palletizing System for the Non-Flat Ceramic Industry	3529
<i>J. Norberto Pires and Sérgio Paulo</i>	

ThM7: Enterprise-Level Modeling and Analysis

Multi-Objective Differential Evolution and Its Application to Enterprise Planning	3535
<i>Feng Xue, Arthur C. Sanderson, and Robert J. Graves</i>	
Task Planning with Transportation Constraints: Approximation Bounds, Implementations and Experiments	3542
<i>Ovidiu Daescu, Derek Soeder, and R.N. Uma</i>	
Improvement of Product Sustainability	3548
<i>Meimei Gao, MengChu Zhou, and Fei-Yue Wang</i>	
A Data Mining Based Clustering Approach to Group Technology	3554
<i>Mu-Chen Chen, Hsiao-Pin Wu, and Chia-Ping Lin</i>	
Modular Petri Net Based Modeling, Analysis and Synthesis of Dedicated Production Systems	3559
<i>G.J. Tsinarakis, K.P. Valavanis, and N.C. Tsourveloudis</i>	

ThM8: Neuro-Robotics (II)

Robust Modeling of Dynamic Environment Based on Robot Embodiment	3565
<i>Kuniaki Noda, Mototaka Suzuki, Naofumi Tsuchiya, Yuki Suga, Tetsuya Ogata, and Shigeki Sugano</i>	
Strategy Acquisition by Survival Robots in Outdoor Environment	3571
<i>Pitoyo Hartono, Keishiro Tabe, Kenji Suzuki, and Shuji Hashimoto</i>	
A Bio-Inspired Approach for Regulating Visco-Elastic Properties of a Robot Arm	3576
<i>L. Zollo, B. Siciliano, E. Guglielmelli, and P. Dario</i>	
Realization of Autonomous Search for Sound Blowing Parameters for an Anthropomorphic Flutist Robot	3582
<i>Shuzo Isoda, Manabu Maeda, Yuji Hiramatsu, Yu Ogura, Hideaki Takanobu, Atsuo Takanishi, and Kunimitsu Wakamatsu</i>	
A New Mental Model for Humanoid Robots for Human Friendly Communication —Introduction of Learning System, Mood Vector and Second Order Equations of Emotion	3588
<i>Hiroyasu Miwa, Tetsuya Okuchi, Kazuko Itoh, Hideaki Takanobu, and Atsuo Takanishi</i>	

ThM9: Manipulation

Planning Velocities of Free Sliding Objects for Dynamic Manipulation	3594
<i>Qingguo Li and Shahram Payandeh</i>	
Experiments in Nonsmooth Control of Distributed Manipulation	3600
<i>T.D. Murphey, J.W. Burdick, J. Burgess, and A. Homyk</i>	
Multi-Agent Cooperative Manipulation with Uncertainty: A Neural Net-Based Game Theoretic Approach	3607
<i>Qingguo Li and Shahram Payandeh</i>	
Cartop Manipulation	3613
<i>Wesley H. Huang, Kartik Babu, and Jonathan A. Bandlow</i>	
Smooth Feedback Control Algorithms for Distributed Manipulators	3619
<i>T.D. Murphey and J.W. Burdick</i>	

ThM10: Nano Robots and Manipulations

Nanotube Devices Fabricated in a Nano Laboratory	3624
<i>Lixin Dong, Fumihito Arai, Masahiro Nakajima, Pou Liu, and Toshio Fukuda</i>	
Nano/Micro Technologies for Single Molecule Manipulation and Detection	3630
<i>Tza-Huei Wang and Chih-Ming Ho</i>	
Platform Technology for Manipulation of Cells, Proteins and DNA	3636
<i>Gwo-Bin Lee and Long-Ming Fu</i>	
3-D Nanomanipulation Using Atomic Force Microscopes	3642
<i>Guangyong Li, Ning Xi, Mengmeng Yu, and Wai Keung Fung</i>	
Bundled Carbon Nanotubes as Electronic Circuit and Sensing Elements	3648
<i>Victor T.S. Wong and Wen J. Li</i>	

ThM11: Robot Design and Analysis

Stiffness Analysis of the Humanoid Robot WABIAN-RIV: Modelling	3654
<i>Giuseppe Carbone, Hun-ok Lim, Atsuo Takanishi, and Marco Ceccarelli</i>	
Auto-Calibration for a Parallel Manipulator with Sensor Redundancy	3660
<i>Y.K. Yiu, J. Meng, and Z.X. Li</i>	
Optimum Force Balancing with Mass Distribution and a Single Elastic Element for a Five-Bar Parallel Manipulator	3666
<i>Gürsel Alici and Bijan Shirinzadeh</i>	
Kinematics and Dynamics of a Cable-like Hyper-Flexible Manipulator	3672
<i>Hiromi Mochiyama and Takahiro Suzuki</i>	
Development of Parallel Manipulator "NINJA" with Ultra-High-Acceleration	3678
<i>Kiyoshi Nagai, Masaharu Matsumoto, Ken'ichiro Kimura, and Ban Masuhara</i>	

ThM12: Impedance Control

Robotic Force Control Using Observer-Based Strict Positive Real Impedance Control	3686
<i>Rolf Johansson and Anders Robertsson</i>	

Impact When Robots Act Wisely	3692
<i>Eunjeong Lee, Juyi Park, Cheryl B. Schrader, and Pyung-Hun Chang</i>	
Stiffness Control of a Three-Link Redundant Planar Manipulator Using the Conservative Congruence Transformation (CCT)	3698
<i>Yanmei Li and Imin Kao</i>	
Cartesian Impedance Control of Redundant Robots: Recent Results with the DLR-Light-Weight-Arms	3704
<i>Alin Albu-Schäffer, Christian Ott, Udo Frese, and Gerd Hirzinger</i>	
The Passivity of Natural Admittance Control Implementations	3710
<i>Mark Dohring and Wyatt Newman</i>	

ThM13: Virtual Reality

Interactive Rendering of Deformable Objects Based on a Filling Sphere Modeling Approach	3716
<i>François Conti, Oussama Khatib, and Charles Baur</i>	
Passivity-Based High-Fidelity Haptic Rendering of Contact	3722
<i>Mohsen Mahvash and Vincent Hayward</i>	
On the Calibration of Deformation Model of Rheology Object by a Modified Randomized Algorithm	3729
<i>Hiroshi Noborio, Ryo Enoki, Shohei Nishimoto, and Takumi Tanemura</i>	
Constructing Rheologically Deformable Virtual Objects	3737
<i>Masafumi Kimura, Yuuta Sugiyama, Seiji Tomokuni, and Shinichi Hirai</i>	
Post-Stabilization for Rigid Body Simulation with Contact and Constraints	3744
<i>Michael B. Cline and Dinesh K. Pai</i>	

ThM14: Nonholonomic Path Planning

Point-to-Point Paths Generation for Wheeled Mobile Robots	3752
<i>Diogo P.F. Pedrosa, Adelardo A.D. Medeiros, and Pablo J. Alsina</i>	
Optimization-Based Formation Reconfiguration Planning for Autonomous Vehicles	3758
<i>Shannon Zelinski, T. John Koo, and Shankar Sastry</i>	
On the Use of Low-Discrepancy Sequences in Non-Holonomic Motion Planning	3764
<i>Abraham Sánchez, René Zapata, and Claudio Lanzoni</i>	
Smooth Path Planning by Using Visibility Graph-like Method	3770
<i>Tomomi Kito, Jun Ota, Rie Katsuki, Takahisa Mizuta, Tamio Arai, Tsuyoshi Ueyama, and Tsuyoshi Nishiyama</i>	
Implementation of Autonomous Fuzzy Garage-Parking Control by an FPGA-Based Car-like Mobile Robot Using Infrared Sensors	3776
<i>Tzui-Hseng S. Li, Shih-Jie Chang, and Yi-Xiang Chen</i>	

ThP1: Motion Planning (III)

On Energy-Minimizing Paths on Terrains for a Mobile Robot	3782
<i>Zheng Sun and John Reif</i>	

Optimal Strategies to Track and Capture a Predictable Target	3789
<i>Alon Efrat, Héctor H. González-Baños, Stephen G. Koburov, and Lingeshwaran Palaniappan</i>	
Planning Multi-Goal Tours for Robot Arms	3797
<i>Mitul Saha, Gildardo Sánchez-Ante, and Jean-Claude Latombe</i>	
Trajectory Generation for Vehicle Moving with Constraints on a Complex Terrain	3804
<i>Ken-Jui Tsao, Li-Sheng Wang, Po-Ting Kuo, and Fan-Ren Chang</i>	
Robot Motion Planning Using Adaptive Random Walks	3809
<i>Stefano Carpin and Gianluigi Pillonetto</i>	

ThP2: Control of Multi-Legged and Multi-Joint Robot

FSW (Feasible Solution of Wrench) for Multi-Legged Robots	3815
<i>Takao Saida, Yasuyoshi Yokokohji, and Tsuneo Yoshikawa</i>	
Intelligent Control of an Experimental Articulated Leg for a Galloping Machine	3821
<i>Luther R. Palmer, David E. Orin, Duane W. Marhefka, James P. Schmiedeler, and Kenneth J. Waldron</i>	
Implementing Configuration Dependent Gaits in a Self-Reconfigurable Robot	3828
<i>K. Støy, W.-M. Shen, and P. Will</i>	
Controlling a Marionette with Human Motion Capture Data	3834
<i>Katsu Yamane, Jessica K. Hodgins, and H. Benjamin Brown</i>	
Achieving Periodic Leg Trajectories to Evolve a Quadruped Gallop	3842
<i>Darren P. Krasny and David E. Orin</i>	

ThP3: Multi-Mobile Robot System (II)

Development of Omni-Directional Vehicle with Step-Climbing Ability	3849
<i>Daisuke Chugo, Kuniaki Kawabata, Hayato Kaetsu, Hajime Asama, and Takatoshi Mishima</i>	
A Distributed Route Planning Method for Multiple Mobile Robots Using Lagrangian Decomposition Technique	3855
<i>Tatsushi Nishi, Masakazu Ando, Masami Konishi, and Jun Imai</i>	
Multi-Robot Task Allocation: Analyzing the Complexity and Optimality of Key Architectures	3862
<i>Brian P. Gerkey and Maja J Matarić</i>	
Explicit Communication in Designing Efficient Cooperative Mobile Robotic System	3869
<i>Y.K. Lam, E.K. Wong, and C.K. Loo</i>	
A Hybrid-Systems Approach to Potential Field Navigation for a Multi-Robot Team	3875
<i>Jing Ren and Kenneth A. McIsaac</i>	

ThP4: Robot Programming through Visual Observation and Model-Based Knowledge

Calculating Possible Local Displacement of Curve Objects Using Improved Screw Theory	3881
<i>Jun Takamatsu, Koichi Ogawara, Hiroshi Kimura, and Katsushi Ikeuchi</i>	
Knot Planning from Observation	3887
<i>Takuma Morita, Jun Takamatsu, Koichi Ogawara, Hiroshi Kimura, and Katsushi Ikeuchi</i>	
Estimation of Essential Interactions from Multiple Demonstrations	3893
<i>Koichi Ogawara, Jun Takamatsu, Hiroshi Kimura, and Katsushi Ikeuchi</i>	

Synthesize Stylistic Human Motion from Examples.....	3899
<i>Atsushi Nakazawa, Shinichiro Nakaoka, and Katsushi Ikeuchi</i>	
Generating Whole Body Motions for a Biped Humanoid Robot from Captured Human Dances.....	3905
<i>Shinichiro Nakaoka, Atsushi Nakazawa, Kazuhito Yokoi, Hirohisa Hirukawa, and Katsushi Ikeuchi</i>	

ThP5: Visual Servoing (II)

Improving Camera Displacement Estimation in Eye-in-Hand Visual Servoing: A Simple Strategy.....	3911
<i>Graziano Chesi and Koichi Hashimoto</i>	
Optimal Landmark Configuration for Vision-Based Control of Mobile Robots	3917
<i>Darius Burschka, Jeremy Geiman, and Gregory Hager</i>	
Visual Navigation of an Autonomous Robot Using White Line Recognition	3923
<i>Huaming Li, Changhai Xu, Qiongliu Xiao, and Xinhe Xu</i>	
A Switching Control Law for Keeping Features in the Field of View in Eye-in-Hand Visual Servoing.....	3929
<i>Graziano Chesi, Koichi Hashimoto, Domenico Prattichizzo, and Antonio Vicino</i>	
Visual Registration and Navigation Using Planar Features.....	3935
<i>Gabriel A.D. Lopes and Daniel E. Koditschek</i>	

ThP6: Computer Aided Production Planning (II)

A Computer-Aided Probing Strategy for Workpiece Localization.....	3941
<i>Zhenhua Xiong, Michael Yu Wang, and Zexiang Li</i>	
Structured Product Coding System (SPCS) for Product Cost Evaluation in a CAE/CAD/CAM Product (C3P) Environment	3947
<i>Chi-haur Wu, Swee M. Mok, and Yujun Xie</i>	
"Unilateral" Fixturing of Sheet Metal Parts Using Modular Jaws with Plane-Cone Contacts	3953
<i>K. Gopalakrishnan, Matthew Zahuzec, Rama Koganti, Patricia Deneszcuk, and Ken Goldberg</i>	
Realization of Fault Tolerant Manufacturing System and Its Scheduling Based on Hierarchical Petri Net Modeling	3959
<i>YoungWoo Kim, Akio Inaba, Tatsuya Suzuki, and Shigeru Okuma</i>	

ThP7: Intelligent/Flexible Machine Control

A New Concept of Modular Parallel Mechanism for Machining Applications.....	3965
<i>Damien Chablat and Philippe Wenger</i>	
An Error Restraining Method for Accurate Freeform Surface Cutting	3971
<i>A. Jaganathan and Y.J. Lin</i>	
Robotic Metal Spinning—Shear Spinning Using Force Feedback Control	3977
<i>Hirohiko Arai</i>	
Robot Trajectory Integration for Painting Automotive Parts with Multiple Patches	3984
<i>Heping Chen, Ning Xi, Zhouhua Wei, Yifan Chen, and Jeffrey Dahl</i>	
A Novel 2-DOF Parallel Mechanism Based Design of a New 5-Axis Hybrid Machine Tool.....	3990
<i>Xin-Jun Liu, Xiaoqiang Tang, and Jinsong Wang</i>	

ThP8: Rehabilitation Robotics (II)

Psychological and Social Effects of Robot Assisted Activity to Elderly People Who Stay at a Health Service Facility for the Aged	3996
<i>Kazuyoshi Wada, Takanori Shibata, Tomoko Saito, and Kazuo Tanie</i>	
Therapy of Hemiparetic Walking by FES	4002
<i>Markus Weber and Friedrich Pfeiffer</i>	
Assistance of Self-Transfer of Patients Using a Power-Assisting Device	4008
<i>Kiyoshi Nagai, Isao Nakanishi, and Hideo Hanafusa</i>	
Development of Rehabilitation System for the Upper Limbs in a NEDO Project	4016
<i>Ken'ichi Koyanagi, Junji Furusho, Ushio Ryu, and Akio Inoue</i>	
Implementation of a Path Planner to Improve the Usability of a Robot Dedicated to Severely Disabled People	4023
<i>M. Mokhtari, B. Abdulrazak, R. Rodriguez, and B. Grandjean</i>	

ThP9: Contact

Modeling the Kinematics and Dynamics of Compliant Contact	4029
<i>Vincent Duindam and Stefano Stramigioli</i>	
Inverse and Direct Dynamics of Constrained Multibody Systems Based on Orthononal Decomposition of Generalized Force	4035
<i>Farhad Aghili</i>	
The 6 x 6 Stiffness Formulation and Transformation of Serial Manipulators via the CCT Theory	4042
<i>Shih-Feng Chen</i>	
Dynamic Performance Analysis of Non-Redundant Robotic Manipulators in Contact	4048
<i>Alan Bowling and ChangHwan Kim</i>	
Nonholonomic Dynamic Rolling Control of Reconfigurable 5R Closed Kinematic Chain Robot with Passive Joints	4054
<i>Tasuku Yamawaki, Osamu Mori, and Toru Omata</i>	

ThP10: Multi-Robot Systems (II)

Layered Multi Agent Architecture with Dynamic Reconfigurability	4060
<i>Eiichi Inohira, Atsushi Konno, and Masaru Uchiyama</i>	
Coordinating the Motions of Multiple Robots with Kinodynamic Constraints	4066
<i>Jufeng Peng and Srinivas Akella</i>	
Scalability and Schedulability in Large, Coordinated, Distributed Robot Systems	4074
<i>John D. Sweeney, Huan Li, Roderic A. Grupen, and Krithi Ramamritham</i>	
Real-Time Path Planning with Deadlock Avoidance of Multiple Cleaning Robots	4080
<i>Chaomin Luo, Simon X. Yang, and Deborah A. Stacey</i>	
Hybrid Systems Modeling of Cooperative Robots	4086
<i>Luiz Chaimowicz, Mario F.M. Campos, and Vijay Kumar</i>	

ThP11: Parallel Robot (IV)

- Inverse Dynamics and Simulation of a 3-DOF Spatial Parallel Manipulator 4092
Yu-Wen Li, Jin-Song Wang, Li-Ping Wang, and Xin-Jun Liu
- Development of Force Displaying Device Using Pneumatic Parallel Manipulator and
Application to Palpation Motion 4098
Masahiro Takaiwa and Toshiro Noritsugu
- Workspace and Dexterity Analyses of Hexaslide Machine Tools 4104
A.B. Koteswara Rao, P.V.M. Rao, and S.K. Saha
- Task Teaching to a Force-Controlled High-Speed Parallel Robot 4110
Daisuke Sato, Takeshi Shitashimizu, and Masaru Uchiyama
- Dynamic Analysis of Clavel's Delta Parallel Robot 4116
Stefan Staicu and D.C. Carp-Ciocardia

ThP12: Learning Control

- Learning Implicit Models during Target Pursuit 4122
Chris Gaskett, Peter Brown, Gordon Cheng, and Alexander Zelinsky
- A New Algorithm of Adaptive Iterative Learning Control for Uncertain Robotic Systems 4130
Chun-Te Hsu, Chiang-Ju Chien, and Chia-Yu Yao
- Learning to Optimize Mobile Robot Navigation Based on HTN Plans 4136
Thorsten Belker, Martin Hammel, and Joachim Hertzberg
- Design and Implementation of a Behavior-Based Control and Learning Architecture
for Mobile Robots 4142
Il Hong Suh, Sanghoon Lee, Bong Oh Kim, Byung Ju Yi, and Sang Rok Oh
- On Learning Control with Limited Training Data 4148
Yongsheng Ou and Yangsheng Xu

ThP13: Intelligent Environment

- Ada—Intelligent Space: An artificial Creature for the Swiss Expo.02 4154
*Kynan Eng, Andreas Bähler, Ulysses Bernardet, Mark Blanchard, Marcio Costa, Tobi Delbrück,
Rodney J Douglas, Klaus Hepp, David Klein, Jonatas Manzolli, Matti Mintz, Fabian Roth, Ueli Rutishauser,
Klaus Wassermann, Adrian M Whatley, Aaron Wittmann, Reto Wyss, and Paul F M J Verschure*
- Human Behavior Interpretation Systems Based on View and Motion-Based
Aspect Models 4160
Masayuki Furukawa, Yoshio Kanbara, Takashi Minato, and Hiroshi Ishiguro
- Collaborative Capturing of Experiences with Ubiquitous Sensors and Communication
Robots 4166
Norihiro Hagita, Kiyoshi Kogure, Kenji Mase, and Yasuyuki Sumi
- Self-Identification of Distributed Intelligent Networked Device in Intelligent Space 4172
Hideki Hashimoto, Joo-Ho Lee, and Noriaki Ando
- Expression Method of Human Locomotion Records for Path Planning and Control of
Human-Symbiotic Robot System Based on Spatial Existence Probability Model of
Humans 4178
Rui Fukui, Hiroshi Morishita, and Tomomasa Sato

ThP14: Path Planning with Uncertainty

Safe Path Planning in an Uncertain-Configuration Space	4185
<i>Alain Lambert and Dominique Gruyer</i>	
On-Line Safe Path Planning in Unknown Environments	4191
<i>Weidong Chen, Changhong Fan, and Yugeng Xi</i>	
Robot Motion Decision-Making System in Unknown Environments	4197
<i>S. Boonphoapichart, S. Komada, T. Hori, and W.A. Gruver</i>	
Probability of Success and Uncertainty Analysis in Path Planning	4203
<i>Dapena Eladio and Moreno Luis</i>	
A Neural Network Model that Calculates Dynamic Distance Transform for Path Planning and Exploration in a Changing Environment	4209
<i>Dmitry V. Lebedev, Jochen J. Steil, and Helge Ritter</i>	

ThE1: Multi-Robot Motion Planning

Motion Planning for a Crowd of Robots	4215
<i>Tsai-Yen Li and Hsu-Chi Chou</i>	
Motion Planning for Multiple Mobile Robots Using Dynamic Networks	4222
<i>Christopher M. Clark, Stephen Rock, and Jean-Claude Latombe</i>	
Reduced Order Motion Planning for Nonlinear Symmetric Distributed Robotic Systems	4228
<i>M. Brett McMickell and Bill Goodwine</i>	
Evasion of Multiple, Intelligent Pursuers in a Stationary, Cluttered Environment Using a Poisson Potential Field	4234
<i>Ahmad A. Masoud</i>	
Closed Loop Navigatipon for Multiple Non-Holonomic Vehicles	4240
<i>Savvas G. Loizou and Kostas J. Kyriakopoulos</i>	

ThE2: Mobile Robot Systems

Designing a Secure and Robust Mobile Interacting Robot for the Long Term	4246
<i>N. Tomatis, G. Terrien, R. Piguet, D. Burnier, S. Bouabdallah, Kai O. Arras, and R. Siegwart</i>	
The Current Opinion on the Use of Robots for Landmine Detection	4252
<i>S. Rajasekharan and C. Kambhampati</i>	
Sensor-Based Motion Planning for Car-like Mobile Robots in Unknown Environments	4258
<i>Claudio Lanzoni, Abraham Sánchez, and René Zapata</i>	
Heterogeneous Implementation of an Adaptive Robotic Sensing Team	4264
<i>Bardley Kratochvil, Ian T. Burt, Andrew Drenner, Derek Goerke, Bennett Jackson, Colin McMillen, Christopher Olson, Nikolaos Papanikolopoulos, Adam Pfeifer, Sascha A. Stoeter, Kristen Stubbs, and David Waletzko</i>	
A System for Volumetric Robotic Mapping of Abandoned Mines	4270
<i>Sebastian Thrun, Dirk Hähnel, David Ferguson, Michael Montemerlo, Rudolph Triebel, Wolfram Burgard, Christopher Baker, Zachary Omohundro, Scott Thayer, and William Whittaker</i>	

ThE5: Vision Based Control

Application of Moment Invariants to Visual Servoing	4276
<i>Omar Tahri and François Chaumette</i>	
Modeling and Vision-Based Control of a Micro Catheter Head for Teleoperated In-Pipe Inspection	4282
<i>Saliha Boudjabi, Antoine Ferreira, and Alexandre Krupa</i>	
Visual Servoing of a Car-like Vehicle—An Application of Omnidirectional Vision	4288
<i>Kane Usher, Peter Ridley, and Peter Corke</i>	
Quadrotor Control Using Dual Camera Visual Feedback	4294
<i>Erdinç Altuğ, James P. Ostrowski, and Camillo J. Taylor</i>	

ThE7: Petri Nets in Automated Systems Design (II)

Production Cycle-Time Analysis Based on Sensor-Based Stage Petri Nets for Automated Manufacturing Systems	4300
<i>ShihSen Peng and MengChu Zhou</i>	
A Colored Timed Petri Net Model to Manage Resources in Complex Automated Manufacturing Systems	4306
<i>Maria Pia Fanti</i>	
Controller Synthesis via Mapping Task Sequence to Petri Nets in Multi-Agent Collaboration Applications	4312
<i>Wenbiao Han and Mohsen A. Jafari</i>	
Fuzzy Petri Nets for Monitoring and Recovery	4318
<i>Daniel Racoreanu, Eugenia Minca, and Noureddine Zerhouni</i>	
Information Systems as a Tool for Specification of Concurrent Systems	4324
<i>Zbigniew Suraj</i>	

ThE11: Parallel Robot (V)

Dynamic Modeling of a Parallel Robot: Application to a Surgical Simulator	4330
<i>N. Leroy, A.M. Kókösy, and W. Perruquetti</i>	
Path Trackability and Verification for Parallel Manipulators	4336
<i>C.K. Kevin Jui and Qiao Sun</i>	
Control and Experiments of a Multi-Purpose Bipedal Locomotor with Parallel Mechanism	4342
<i>Yusuke Sugahara, Tatsuhiro Endo, Hun-ok Lim, and Atsuo Takanishi</i>	
Design of a Redundantly Actuated Leg Mechanism	4348
<i>Byung Rok So, Byung-Ju Yi, Wheekuk Kim, Sang-Rok Oh, Jongil Park, and Young Soo Kim</i>	
Probabilistic Motion Planning for Parallel Mechanisms	4354
<i>J. Cortés and T. Siméon</i>	

ThE12: Robot Control

Robust Task-Space Control of Hydraulic Robots	4360
<i>O. Becker, I. Pietsch, and J. Hesselbach</i>	

Passivity Monitor and Software Limiter which Guarantee Asymptotic Stability of Robot Control Systems.....	4366
<i>Katsuya Kanaoka and Tsuneo Yoshikawa</i>	
Hierarchical Velocity Field Control for Robot Manipulators	4374
<i>Javier Moreno and Rafael Kelly</i>	
Better Robot Tracking Accuracy with Phase Lead Compensated ILC	4380
<i>Yongqiang Ye and Danwei Wang</i>	
Forcefree Control with Independent Compensation for Inertia, Friction and Gravity of Industrial Articulated Robot Arm.....	4386
<i>Satoru Goto, Masatoshi Nakamura, and Nobuhiro Kyura</i>	

ThE13: Remote Robotics

Challenges in VR-Based Robot Teleoperation	4392
<i>Cheng-Peng Kuan and Kuu-young Young</i>	
Adaptive Fusion of Sensor Signals Based on Mutual Information Maximization	4398
<i>Tetsushi Ikeda, Hiroshi Ishiguro, and Minoru Asada</i>	
Reinforcement Learning Congestion Controller for Multimedia Surveillance System	4403
<i>Ming-Chang Hsiao, Kao-Shing Hwang, Shun-Wen Tan, and Cheng-Shong Wu</i>	
Student Performance Evaluation in Web Based Access to Robot Supported Laboratories	4408
<i>H.E. Motuk, A.M. Erkmén, and I. Erkmén</i>	
Co-Operative Control of Internet Based Multi-Robot Systems with Force Reflection	4414
<i>Wang-tai Lo, Yun-Hui Liu, Imad Elhajj, Ning Xi, Yinghai Shi, and Yuechao Wang</i>	

ThE14: Probabilistic Roadmap

The Bridge Test for Sampling Narrow Passages with Probabilistic Roadmap Planners	4420
<i>David Hsu, Tingting Jiang, John Reif, and Zheng Sun</i>	
Improving the Connectivity of PRM Roadmaps	4427
<i>Marco Morales, Samuel Rodríguez, and Nancy M. Amato</i>	
HPRM: A Hierarchical PRM	4433
<i>Anne D. Collins, Pankaj K. Agarwal, and John L. Harer</i>	
A General Framework for Sampling on the Medial Axis of the Free Space	4439
<i>Jyh-Ming Lien, Shawna L. Thomas, and Nancy M. Amato</i>	
A General Framework for PRM Motion Planning	4445
<i>Guang Song, Shawna Thomas, and Nancy M. Amato</i>	

Authors' Index	A-1
Categories' Index	A-18